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**Local** pg 8

Cops take kids to the mall





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**Celebrity Buzz**

Abdul having Idol regrets pg 34




## Captain missing after dragger sinks

**CREW SAFE** Three fishermen were rescued from a life-raft in rough seas and a search was underway for their missing captain after their dragger sank yesterday in rough seas off southwestern Nova Scotia.

Maj. James Simiana of the search-and-rescue co-ordination centre in Halifax said the Pubnico Explorer out of Meteghan sent out a distress call at 10:15 a.m. after it began taking in water.

A coast guard ship arrived at 11:30 a.m. to find a yellow life-raft on the ocean but no sign of the 17-metre boat.

Simiana said the three fishermen were taken aboard the cutter and later arrived in Meteghan to be reunited with their families. THE CANADIAN PRESS




TRURO DAILY NEWS

A Halifax Regional Police officer was killed when he drove his minivan down the wrong side of a divided highway and collided head-on with a tractor-trailer late Tuesday.

# Cop killed in crash

MONIQUE MUISE
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**Halifax Regional Police were mourning the death of one of their own yesterday after a head-on collision near Truro claimed the life of an off-duty officer.**

Police spokesman Brian Palmeter confirmed 41-year-old Const. Tony Carlisle was the sole fatality in the accident along Highway 104 late Tuesday evening. The father of four had been a member of the Halifax police force since May 1995.

Police Chief Frank Beazley issued a statement yesterday, praising Carlisle's strong work ethic and calling his death a "devastating" loss for the entire department and the community as a whole.

According to Sgt. Al Affleck of the Colchester County RCMP, Carlisle was travelling the wrong way in the eastbound lane of the highway in heavy fog when his minivan was struck by an oncoming tractor-trailer. He was pronounced dead at the scene. Visibility was reportedly less than 300 metres at the time of the crash.

**"Anytime we deal with a fatal or a sudden death, it's horrific. But when it's a fellow police officer ... we are family."**
RCMP Sgt. Al Affleck

Affleck acknowledged his own department is struggling with this case.

"Anytime we deal with a fatal or a sudden death, it's horrific," he said of Carlisle, an assistant coach with the Nova Scotia junior B hockey league's Brookfield Elks, who has a brother serving with HRP. "But when it's a fellow police officer — and it doesn't matter if it's RCMP or Halifax Regional Police — we are family."

Police still aren't certain how the van managed to cross the grassy median separating the eastbound and westbound lanes of the highway.

"There are areas where snowplows and police vehicles turn around, so that's a possible way across," Affleck said. "There's also the possibility of going onto an off-ramp instead of an on-ramp. At this point, we can't even begin to speculate what happened."

The driver of the truck was not injured.

## H1N1 shots may be an annual event

**HEALTH** Swine flu could keep coming back for "years to decades" and officials acknowledged yesterday they are looking at the possibility of mass immunizations becoming an annual event.

While the second wave of H1N1 winds down, officials expect it to return as one of the main seasonal flus.

"That's the likely scenario that's going to happen. It's not just going to go away," said Dr. Robert Strang, chief medical officer of Nova Scotia.

"This is now, in all likelihood, going to become one of the predominant strains."

**"It's not just going to go away."**
Dr. Robert Strang

That has officials on a national level considering if universal vaccination drives need to happen every year. Strang said it's too early to know how the H1N1 virus will develop and whether it will become more or less dangerous.

But he said universal drives would come with a heavy cost.

"It's been an extraordinary effort on the part of public health over the last eight weeks and we basically deferred almost all other public health work. We couldn't do that on an annual basis," he said.

PAUL MCLEOD/METRO HALIFAX

**News on the Move**

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**World** pg 12



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# Local



## Globetrotters bringing buckets of fun

**The Harlem Globetrotters are coming to town March 24 for their Magical Memories world tour at the Halifax Metro Centre. Tip-off is set for 7 p.m. The Globetrotters are in their 84th consecutive season of touring and will bring players like Special K Daley, ball-handling wizard Scooter Christensen and the gravity-defying El Gato Melendez. Tickets run between $24.75 and $89.50 each and are available at all Ticket Atlantic outlets, online at ticketatlantic.com and by phone at 451-1221.** METRO HALIFAX

METRO INTERNATIONAL NEWSPAPER OF THE YEAR 2009 Festival of Media Awards

## Lahey child-porn case delayed

**COURT** The case of a Roman Catholic bishop facing child-pornography charges has been put off until the new year.

Raymond Lahey was not in court yesterday when his lawyer requested more time to prepare his case.

Lahey's next appearance in court has been scheduled for Jan. 13.

He was charged in September with possessing and importing child porn — 10 days after being detained at an airport in Ottawa. Police allege they found hundreds of files and dozens of videos on Lahey's laptop, many of them showing young males engaged in sex acts.

Lahey — who has stepped down as bishop of the diocese in Antigonish — has been staying with other priests in Ottawa since being granted bail Oct. 1. THE CANADIAN PRESS

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# Alleged assault on cop spurs investigation

**Halifax Regional Police will be investigating how an arrested man not believed to have been handcuffed got his hands on an officer's flashlight and then allegedly used it to assault him.**

The incident took place Tuesday on the Bedford Highway as the officer was driving a 31-year-old man back to police headquarters around 6:15 p.m. The suspect had been arrested for allegedly shoplifting from the Bedford Zellers and possessing illegal drugs.

Police spokeswoman Theresa Rath said the suspect, who also had outstanding warrants, was sitting in the back of the police cruiser when the officer "noticed the man may have ingested something."

The officer pulled into a parking lot near All Saints Anglican Church to check the status of the man.

"At that point, the man forced his way out of the police car and struck a police officer in the head with a police flashlight," Rath alleged.

Rath said the suspect may have grabbed the flashlight off the front seat of the cruiser, possibly through an opening in the protective glass separating the front and back seats.

When asked if the suspect was handcuffed at the time, Rath said, "I don't believe so." When asked if that's unusual, she replied, "Yes it is."

Rath said a struggle ensued and both men eventually ended up in the middle of the Bedford Highway.

"Some cars went around them, but eventually two Good Samaritans stopped and assisted the police officer," she said.

"(The two adult males) were able to help the officer gain control of the suspect and he was placed in handcuffs."

Rath said the officer sustained injuries to his face and eye, while the suspect suffered eye injuries. Both were taken to hospital and the officer was released, but he was seeking further medical treatment yesterday. Rath said the suspect was still at the QEII Health Sciences Centre yesterday.

"We're just going to review the file to determine if policy was followed," she said of the pending investigation. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX

### Good Samaritans

• Halifax Regional Police are publicly thanking the two men who stopped to help an officer allegedly being assaulted by a suspect on the Bedford Highway Tuesday. "We won't speculate as to what might have happened (had they not stopped), but certainly we're very appreciative of them stopping and offering the officer their assistance," said police spokeswoman Theresa Rath.

# Undercover drug operation nabs suspects

**DRUGS** Halifax Regional Police say they have charged four people under the Controlled Drugs and Substances Act and are looking for six more suspects at large after a major undercover operation in the Halifax Regional Municipality.

According to Staff Sgt. Richard Lane, the three-and-a-half month investigation involved one undercover officer from the Cape Breton Regional Police department, who participated in 36 drug transactions in Fairview, Clayton Park, Halifax and Dartmouth.

Lane said an officer was called in from Cape Breton because he would not be easily recognizable in HRM.

"We had received some complaints from different citizens and businesses within the municipality," Lane said. "So we decided to address the issue."

A search warrant was also executed at a home in Fairview, said Lane, and police seized an unspecified amount of drugs at that location.

"We expect to execute several other search warrants as we move through this," he added.

Police have charged Shawn David, 43 (no fixed address), with three counts of trafficking in cocaine, Paul Glasgow, 25 (Dartmouth), with five counts of trafficking in cocaine, and an unidentified 17-year-old male (Halifax) with two counts of trafficking in cocaine.

A 42-year-old man from Halifax is also facing several counts of trafficking in marijuana and ecstasy, but his name has not yet been released.

MONIQUE MUISE/ METRO HALIFAX




RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

**Staff Sgt. Richard Lane, left, of the HRP/RCMP Integrated Drug Unit and Staff Sgt. Jerome Kelly of Cape Breton Regional Police answer questions at Halifax Regional Police headquarters about an operation targeting street-level drug trafficking in HRM.**

## News in brief

**CLOSURE** The MacKay Bridge will be closed to all traffic Friday from midnight to 5:30 a.m. for testing to conduct a calibration of the strain gauges. A Halifax Harbour Bridges release said the calibration involves a series of readings to test load capacity of each of the bridge's axles. METRO HALIFAX

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**Blaze leaves family homeless**

A mother, her adult son and five-year-old grandson are temporary homeless after fire destroyed the home they were renting in New Germany on Tuesday night. No one was at home at the time of the fire, with the Canadian Red Cross saying the family is now staying with extended family. METRO HALIFAX

# Cause of Beaver Bank fire 'undetermined'

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**After an almost three-month investigation, fire officials still don't know what caused a fire that gutted a community centre and volunteer fire department in Beaver Bank.**

In a release issued yesterday, the cause of the fire was officially deemed "undetermined," although investigators don't suspect it was a case of arson.

"This was an accidental fire as far as we're concerned, but the actual cause is undetermined," said Divisional Captain Craig MacDonald of Halifax Regional Fire Services. "As with most major fires, the evidence to support what caused it was destroyed."

The $4.5-million facility, built in 2004, was engulfed in flames on the night of Sept. 23. No one was injured, but by the time fire crews got the blaze under control, the roof was practically gone and there was extensive damage to the interior of the structure.

Along with the volunteer fire department headquarters, the building housed a daycare, an RCMP community office and a public computer-access facility.

"We believe (the fire) started at the rear of the building," MacDonald said. "There was a deck on the upper level and we think it started in that area."

Area Coun. Barry Dalrymple, who worked as a fire investigator himself for 15 years, said the ruling came as no surprise to him.

"Once we went the first couple of weeks without being able to determine (the cause) the chances plummeted that we would ever determine the cause," he said.

Dalrymple added the community is committed to rebuilding the centre, and has already raised well over $14,000 towards the project.

Insurance will cover most of the cost of a new building, but any additions or improvements will come out of the community's collective pocket.

"We do want to redesign the building," Dalrymple said. "In the past five years, the community had already outgrown the centre. We need more room, and we would love to make it more accessible to people with disabilities."



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Firefighters walk past the Beaver Bank community centre and volunteer fire department, after a blaze destroyed the building during the overnight hours of Sept. 23.

# U.K. man suing N.S. government

A businessman originally from the U.K. has launched a lawsuit against the Nova Scotia government over a failed nominee program that was supposed to pair new immigrants with on-the-job training.

The proposed class-action suit was filed Monday on behalf of Peter King, who moved to Halifax from Middlesex in April 2006 after paying $130,500 to participate in the program's now-defunct economic stream.

The statement of claim alleges King, who ran a limousine and chauffeur business in the U.K., applied unsuccessfully for a number of jobs with mentor companies approved by the province until June 2006, when he accepted a position in Kelowna, B.C.

The provincial government has refunded immigrants who met certain requirements, including those who lived in Nova Scotia for 12 consecutive months. But King didn't meet the criteria.

His lawyer, Peter Driscoll, said the requirements for the refund were unfair.

Of the $130,500 in fees King shelled out to participate in the program, $100,000 was paid to the province in trust. That money was to be paid to the mentor company, which would then give some of it back to King as part of his salary.

King is seeking the $100,000 plus interest paid in trust and unspecified damages.

Nova Scotia Immigration Minister Ramona Jennex said provincial lawyers were reviewing legal documents and declined to comment further on the case.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Suit

- The suit alleges the province breached its contract with King by failing to provide suitable employers and management positions.
- It also alleges the province misappropriated trust moneys and breached King's rights under the Canadian Charter of Rights and Freedoms, including his mobility rights.
- The allegations in the statement of claim have not been proven in court.

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# First Nation pushes for public inquiry

**SHOOTING** Band council of Wagmatcook First Nation is seeking a meeting with Nova Scotia Justice Minister Ross Landry to push for a public inquiry into the death of John Simon, who was shot by an RCMP officer in his home a little more than a year ago.

Brian Arbuthnot, band director of operations, said council isn't accepting an oral report on the incident provided by Halifax Regional Police and RCMP representatives Monday, and wants to ask Landry to order another investigation into his death.

Band council hopes to meet Landry in early January and might request a joint federal-provincial inquiry, he said.

"They found the report itself was embarrassing and certainly not in keeping with what we were told all along," Arbuthnot said.

The band council also questioned why the RCMP was a part of the investigation into the incident, he said.

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**Homburg restructuring**

Halifax-based Homburg Invest Inc. announced a major reorganization yesterday as it plans to spin off its real estate assets among five new entities owned or initially controlled by the company. Homburg will also create the Homburg Canada Real Estate Investment Trust to hold its Canadian income-producing properties. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# H1N1 petering out

## Officials still urge caution over the holiday season

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**For the first time in months there were no new lab-confirmed H1N1 cases and no hospitalizations due to the flu in Nova Scotia last week.**

The new data highlights a steady drop-off of flu activity that began about a month ago and shows the second wave of swine flu is petering out.

Mass vaccination clinics also closed this week and the health department announced yesterday it would no longer be calling weekly press conferences on H1N1 unless something of note happens.

But Nova Scotia chief medical officer Dr. Robert Strang said H1N1 is still the predominant strain of flu in the province — in fact no other variety has popped up in lab tests — and people need to take precautions over the holiday season.

"Even though it is the holidays, if people are sick with flu-like symptoms please stay home, and if they have guests coming to an occasion please urge them to stay home if they're sick," he said.

"I don't want to put a damper on things. I just think people should, as I've said all along, take reasonable and common sense approaches."

He said people should continue other precautions such as wiping down door handles and not sharing drinks.

But he emphasized there is no need for people to shut down their social calendar and kissing under the mistletoe is still OK.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Dr. Robert Strang, Nova Scotia's chief medical officer, is urging people to still be cautious with H1N1 over the holiday season.

# Officer faces extortion charges

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**CRIME** A judge has ordered the Halifax Regional Police officer charged with extortion over the weekend to stay away from two convicted drug dealers.

Const. Jeffrey Buchanan has been released to his Dartmouth home on $15,000 bail. Court documents show he is ordered to have no contact with Shawn Kenneth Banfield and Donya Delaney or go near their homes.

The documents allege Buchanan threatened Banfield into paying him $5,100, which is an alleged breach of trust in his role as a police officer.

Banfield and Delaney both have past convictions for drug trafficking. Banfield was in court yesterday to be sentenced on Oct. 25 charges of resisting and obstructing a police officer.

He received a total fine of $172.50.

He also has a charge of assault stemming from the same day for which he has pleaded not guilty. That matter is scheduled to go to court in January. Banfield must also appear in February facing more drug charges.

Buchanan was arrested while on duty at headquarters early Saturday morning. Deputy Chief Chris McNeil says the alleged extortion is believed to have occurred when Buchanan was on duty last Thursday. He is alleged to have extorted an undisclosed amount of money from someone.

Buchanan has been suspended from his duties, but is eligible to receive pay for at least 60 days.

# Public sector employees shielded from recession: Poll

**ECONOMY** Public sector employees are more likely to see a pay raise than those in the private sector, a new poll shows.

The Corporate Research Associates Inc. survey released yesterday said 75 per cent of public sector employees in Atlantic Canada received a pay raise, compared to 44 per cent for private sector employees and 32 per cent for workers with not-for-profit organizations.

The average pay increase for public sector employees was 2.4 per cent, compared to 1.4 per cent for public and 0.9 per cent for not-for-profit.

"Public sector employees have been shielded from the impact of the recession relative to employees in the private and not-for-profit sectors," said CRA president and CEO Don Mills in a release. "As well, most of the job loss in the region has occurred in the private sector. There have really been no serious consequences from the recession on public service employees yet."

The survey — conducted from Nov. 5 to 30 — interviewed 1,501 adults and carries a margin of error of 3.3 percentage points. PHILIP CROUCHER/METRO HALIFAX




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CRUISE roundtrip Miami and Nassau & Great Stirrup Cay.

**Western Caribbean** 7-Night Cruise from $368 + taxes & fees $128
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**Southern Caribbean** 7-Night Cruise from $516 + taxes & fees $59
CRUISE roundtrip San Juan and visit St Thomas, Tortola, Antigua, St Lucia & Barbados.

**Hawaiian Islands** 7-Night Cruise from $670 + taxes & fees $90
CRUISE roundtrip Honolulu and visit Maui (overnight), Big Island (Hilo & Kona) and Kauai (overnight).

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**Dewolfe to be sworn in to family courts**

Judge Jean M. Dewolfe will be sworn-in to the Provincial and Family Courts of Nova Scotia at a ceremony in Kentville tomorrow. Judge Dewolfe is one of three new Judges appointed to the Provincial and Family Courts in November. Richard MacKinnon and Del Atwood were sworn-in Nov. 27. METRO NEWS SERVICES



ANDREW VAUGHAN/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Drew Smith sells lobsters in a suburban Dartmouth shopping centre on Friday. The fisherman from Woods Harbour, N.S., can't make ends meet with the low prices he receives from commercial buyers on the wharf.

# Lobster fishers struggling to remain afloat

**Drew Smith is 50 years old and $100,000 in the hole.**

The burly lobster fisherman from Woods Harbour is struggling to make ends meet because the price he gets for his catch at the wharf is hovering around $4 a pound — about a dollar below his break-even price.

The reason? About 80 per cent of the lobster landed in Canada is exported to the United States, where the lingering recession has reduced the appetite for the tasty crustaceans, long considered a luxury dish.

In short, the demand for lobster just isn't there.

That's why Smith and many other Nova Scotia lobstermen from the province's south shore are loading up their trucks and heading to Halifax, where the shellfish are sold on the roadside for about $5.50 or $6 a pound.

"It's not that I want to do this, but I'm forced to this year," Smith says as he takes a break from selling lobsters in a Canadian Tire lot in Dartmouth.

"I'm behind in boat payments, insurance and a lot of bills."

Still, the market is better than it was last year, when prices bottomed out at just over $3.

"We're all paying for bills we couldn't pay for last year," says Smith, a bear of a man in a camouflage jacket and baseball hat.

> **"We're all paying for bills we couldn't pay for last year. It's just impossible."**
> Drew Smith

"It's just impossible. And some guys have lost their rigs."

A fishing boat captain for 25 years, Smith operates a 14-metre boat appropriately named Major Expense No. 1.

He says another bad year could kill his business.

The lobster business is the most lucrative fishery in Canada, producing almost $1 billion in export sales to 59 countries. The 10,000 licensed lobster enterprises in Quebec and the Atlantic provinces employ about 30,000 harvesters.

"The biggest problem right now is the economy," says Smith. "The answer is to get this economy rolling again."

Denny Morrow, executive director of the Nova Scotia Fish Packers Association, says it will take some time before there's a rebound. However, Morrow insists the industry remains in good shape, relative to other sectors of the economy. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# CBRM not entitled to bigger payouts: Councillor

**FUNDING** A Cape Breton Regional Municipality councillor has taken a stand against the belief the municipality is entitled to larger equalization payments.

District 6 Coun. Kim Desveaux delivered a speech during the monthly council meeting this week outlining why municipalities shouldn't receive a greater share of federal equalization payments.

Desveaux was responding to a presentation by the citizen group Nova Scotians for Equalization Fairness. In the presentation, NSEF president John R. MacDonald chastised the provincial government for allowing CBRM residents to pay higher property taxes while receiving less services than Halifax.

He said the province received $1.571 billion in equalization money from the federal government for 2008-09, but the province only distributed 1.1 per cent of that — or a little over $15 million — directly to municipalities.

**Possible appeal**

- The Supreme Court of Canada will reveal today whether it will hear an appeal of the constitutional legal action started by the CBRM.

The group believes the CBRM is entitled to $118 million in the form of a 14 per cent fairness grant.

However, Desveaux said equalization underfunding "takes your eyes off lack of the planning or perhaps poor leadership at the municipal level."

The councilor noted CBRM has no strategic plan and said convincing residents they are entitled to $100 million "is nothing more than sending people pipe dreams."

CAPE BRETON POST

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**Wentworth Valley community centres to receive upgrades**
The federal government announced yesterday $336,000 towards the upgrade of two community centres in Wentworth Valley that will be used for the 2011 Canada Winter Games. Money is also going towards helping to restore the Thinkers' Lodge in Pugwash. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Kids shop 'til they drop — with cops

ALY THOMSON
for Metro Halifax

**Natalie Cooper slid a Halifax Shopping Centre gift card across the cash counter of a shoe store yesterday — a new pair of sequined gold shoes clutched under her arm.**

"I also have to get something for my mom," the 10-year-old said, recommending Mike and Ikes, her mother's favourite candy.

Cooper, who is from Bedford, was one 50 children who participated in the fifth annual CopShop yesterday. The program, presented by Halifax Shopping Centre and the Halifax Regional Police, turns police officers into personal shoppers.

Armed with wish lists, 50 officers are paired off with children aged seven to 12 and have two hours to spend a $200 gift card donated by the mall.

The children also receive a new winter coat, hat and mittens provided by HSC.

Const. Jennifer Lake, a resource officer at Eaglewood Drive Elementary, accompanied Cooper to shoe, movie and clothing stores.

She said kids are recommended for the program by teachers and administration at their elementary schools. Although there is no particular label, Lake explained the selected children often come from a lower economic background, or perhaps have lost someone close to them.

"The program gives us an opportunity to be able to spend time with a child that does need a little extra support or cheering up," she said, sporting a festive hat decorated with jingle bells.

"It's a great opportunity for us to connect."

Natalie met her twin sister Natasha in the hallway of the mall to boast about their findings. Lake, who participated in the program last year, said there is an electricity of excitement circulating through the kids that makes it all worth it.

"To have the opportunity to run through a mall and be able to fulfill her wish list, which may or may not be filled by others means, is heartwarming, especially at this time of year."

Lake also implied this wouldn't be her last year participating in CopShop.

"We all experience some tough things through our jobs and this is the highlight of the year, the absolute highlight," she said.



RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Const. Jennifer Lake from the Halifax Regional Police and 10-year-old Natalie Cooper carry around some of their purchases at the Halifax Shopping Centre yesterday. Fifty officers took local kids shopping during the fifth annual CopShop.

## Demands for rental housing across province stable in 2009

**HOUSING** Demand for rental units remained stable in HRM and across Nova Scotia in 2009, according to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation.

Overall apartment vacancy rates in the province dropped from 3.5 per cent to 3.1 per cent this year.

This was largely impacted by Halifax's vacancy rate dropping to 2.9 per cent, though Cape Breton and New Glasgow also saw declines.

CMHC numbers show other centres such as Truro and Kentville saw vacancy increases.

Rent was most expensive overall in Halifax, with an average $877-per-month price for a two-bedroom unit.

Next was Truro ($737), Cape Breton ($641), down to New Glasgow at the bottom with an average of $559 per month for that same apartment.

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**Court rules against Bell ad claim**
Rogers says a B.C. judge has ruled that Bell's claim it has Canada's most reliable network is false and misleading. THE CANADIAN PRESS



# Canada

# Colvin blasts Tories in letter to Commons

## New allegations in Afghan torture debate

**Canada stubbornly refused to monitor Afghan prisoners, some of whom disappeared into unofficial "black site" jails, until public attention left it no choice, diplomat Richard Colvin claims in a stinging letter filed with a House of Commons committee.**

The 16-page, point-by-point critique of testimony and public claims by federal officials is laced with several new allegations that will no doubt feed the political wildfire burning over the prison torture issue.

The intent of the letter, delivered yesterday to the special committee on Afghanistan, was to rebut critics who've tried to tear apart his claims of abuse in Afghan jails and what Canada knew about it.

On April 24, 2007 — one day after allegations of torture were published in Canada — the Canadian Embassy in Kabul recommended a system to monitor prisoners, Colvin wrote.

But the advice was rejected by the senior federal official in charge of the Afghan file, David Mulroney, who is now the ambassador to China.

"In our one page memo, we suggested that Canada should negotiate a new detainee (memorandum of understanding), set up an effective monitoring mechanism, and try to reduce the number of detainees taken," says Colvin's letter.

"Mr. Mulroney replied within hours to reject our advice, instructing us instead to implement the contingency plan."

THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Outcry

- The public outcry over the torture allegations forced the Conservative government to sign a new, stricter deal with the Afghan government on May 3, 2007.

## Wildrose growing fast in Alberta

**POLITICS** Danielle Smith was five months old when Peter Lougheed toppled a dynasty in 1971 and created one of his own.

Thirty-eight years later, Smith, the new leader of Alberta's Wildrose Alliance, is looking ahead to 2010. Recent polls have the Wildrose surging past Alberta Premier Ed Stelmach's Progressive Conservatives as the party of choice among the majority of voters. THE CANADIAN PRESS

m.metronews.ca

ScanLife

Naomi Klein's No Logo and Cormac McCarthy's The Road listed among Canadian authors' favourite books of the decade. Scan this barcode for the full article.

## Ontario Survivor carries the flame



PETER R. RITCHIE/THE CANADIAN PRESS

Sixteen-year-old Jack Prins, a survivor of childhood cancer and spokesperson for the Sick Kids Foundation, runs the final 300 metres to light the cauldron as the Olympic torch relay arrives in Lindsay, Ont., yesterday.

# PM to join climate talks today

Go Green

**DENMARK** Violent protests and deadlocked talks await Prime Minister Stephen Harper in Copenhagen as climate negotiations threaten to unravel in their final hours.

Harper will join 192 other world leaders today at the United Nations conference in an effort to seal some kind of a deal.

But with scant few hours until the summit's close, the chasm between countries rich and poor seemed wider than ever.

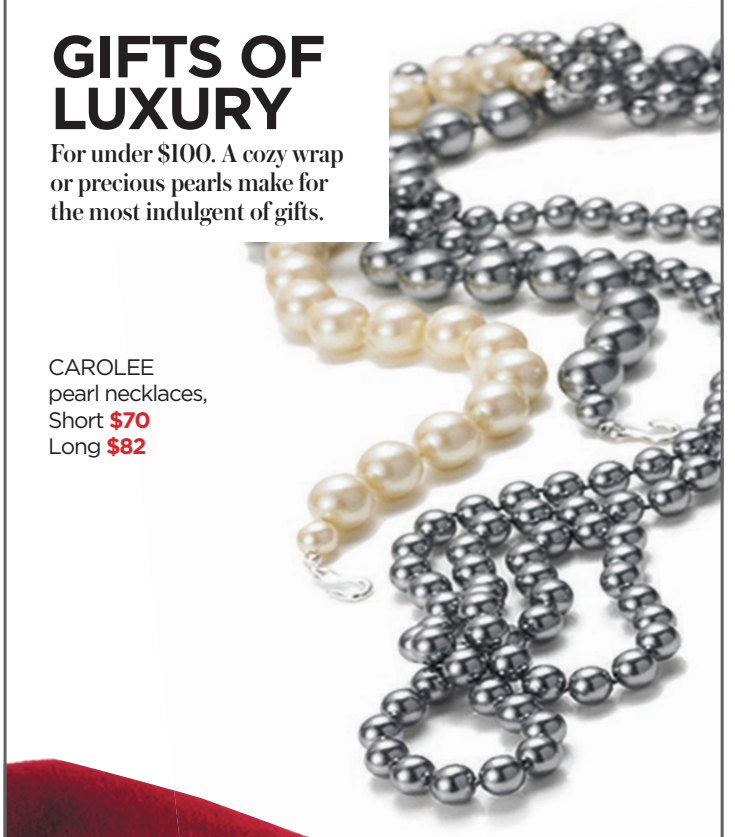
Outside the convention hall, police battered a throng of protesters with batons as they tried to disrupt the conference. Videos showed protesters getting pepper-sprayed — and one pushed from the roof of a van — as they approached police lines.

Talks dragged on into the wee hours of the morning yesterday without a breakthrough, as China and the United States remained at loggerheads over key issues.

THE CANADIAN PRESS


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| HEAD CURTAIN SIDE IMPACT AIRBAGS | Standard | Not Available | Standard |
| AIR CONDITIONING | Standard | Optional | Optional |
| 16" ALUMINUM WHEELS | Standard | 15" Steel | 15" Steel |
| REMOTE KEYLESS ENTRY | Standard | Not Available | Not Available |
| POWER DOOR LOCKS | Standard | Standard | Not Available |
| HP / TORQUE | 155/150 | 138/136 | 140/128 |
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‡‡ Value of additional features based on dealer pricing. Vehicle comparison is based on 2010 Cobalt LT (1AL69/1AL37 1SA), 2010 Elantra L Sedan (D4T) and 2010 Civic DX Sedan (FA1529EX). ** Vehicle specification and purchase price according to the information available on the manufacturer's website at time of printing.

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Offer available on all 2009 and 2010 Chevrolet, Pontiac, Buick, GMC and HUMMER models and excluding all Saturn and SAAB models, Camaro, Express/Savana, Corvette ZR1 and Medium Duty Trucks. †Offers apply to the cash purchase prices of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A new or demonstrator models and apply only to retail customers in the Maritimes. Freight ($1,350/$1,350/$1,350) not included. Cash purchase price reflects discounts or other incentives that are available when consumers opt for a cash purchase offer. By selecting lease or finance offers consumers are foregoing such incentives which may result in a higher effective interest rate. ‡ Financing available on approved credit only from TD Canada Trust; ask your dealer for additional information. Based on finance rates of 4.09%/4.09%/4.09% for 84/84/84 months for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. Down payment and/or trade may be required. 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This three payment example is for purchases of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. ¥ US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ¥¥ Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000 km. Program applies to 2009 and 2010 models only; excludes demos, fleet, lease vehicles and medium duty trucks. Maximum damage allowed of $200. Vehicle usage fee and other restrictions apply. Not available with some other offers. Customer must take retail delivery by January 11, 2010. See dealer or gm.ca for additional details. 1 Available on approved TD Canada Trust purchase financing on terms of 84 months. The first three payments will be spread over the remaining bi-weekly payments (i.e 179 remaining payments). The first three payments are offered at a maximum of $297 ($99 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS R7A, $327 ($109 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LT R7A and $255 ($85 x 3) for the 2010 Chevrolet Aveo5 LS R7A. License, insurance, registration, administration fees, tire warranty and handling (where applicable) and taxes not included. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 11, 2010. Offer applies only to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. 2 Offers in this advertisement include the cost of 4 winter tires (up to a value of $450). Tire brand availability may vary depending on dealerships. Tire order may be required. Installation and balancing not included. Tire duties are extra and payable at time of delivery. Offer applies to vehicles delivered on or before January 11, 2010. Offer applies only to 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. 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Bi-weekly payment based on a purchase price of $15,639/$17,259/$13,499 with $0/$0/$0 down payment. ‡ Financing available on approved TD Canada Trust purchase financing on terms of 0%/0%/0% up to 36/36/36 months for 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Cobalt LT Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. Down payment and/or trade may be required. Monthly payment and cost of borrowing will vary depending on amount borrowed and down payment/trade. Example: $10,000 at 0%/0%/0% APR, the monthly payment is $277.78/$277.78/$277.78 for 36/36/36 months and cost of borrowing is $0/$0/$0. This three payment example is for purchases of 2010 Chevrolet Cobalt LS Coupe or Sedan R7A/Aveo5 LS R7A. ¥ US government star ratings are part of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration's (NHTSA's) New Car Assessment Program. For more information on safety ratings, go to www.safercar.gov. ¥¥ Return between 30-60 days with less than 4,000 km. 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**Arrest made in murder case from 1970**
Police in Kingston, Ont., have arrested Joseph Clifford Edward Langford, 66, a Winnipeg man in a murder case from 1970. THE CANADIAN PRESS

# 87 cancer test errors found: Study

## Irregularities led to improper treatment

**A new study says nearly 40 Quebec women with breast cancer received improper treatment since last year because of testing irregularities — and five of them died.**

The provincial study arrived yesterday as a followup to a report that cited problems with Quebec's screening practices.

Quebec Health Minister Yves Bolduc ordered the review in June.

He asked for thousands of cancer tests to be redone after an extensive study suggested there were problems with Quebec's screening process.

The original study by Dr. Louis Gaboury, head of the Quebec Association of Pathologists, examined almost 3,000 breast-cancer tests conducted over 14 months starting in April 2008.

Out of 2,856 exams reviewed, 87 errors were found in the test results.

**"Our laboratories are of a very high quality. Our results in pathology, in Quebec, are world-class."**
Yves Bolduc, Quebec health minister

The new provincial study, released yesterday, confirms 39 cancer sufferers failed to receive the proper care.

Bolduc said there was no proof the five deaths were caused by improper treatment. He said that mortality rate was normal for cases of breast cancer.

The health minister also defended the quality of breast-cancer tests in Quebec, saying the error rate fell well below what he described as the 10 per cent norm for such screening.

"Our laboratories are of a very high quality," the minister said. "Our results in pathology, in Quebec, are world-class."

The government says that test results can vary as much as 20 per cent from one lab to another.

Bolduc declined, however, to explicitly rule out the possibility that insufficient care might have caused any of the deaths. He said the families of the five victims are being contacted.

Quebec's College of Physicians said it was satisfied with the government's handling of the issue.

In North America, one woman dies from breast cancer every 12 minutes.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## Vancouver **Anti-Olympic mural**



DARRYL DYCK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

A man walks past an anti-Olympic mural hanging on the outside of a gallery in the Downtown Eastside of Vancouver yesterday. The mural re-appeared this week after the city ordered its removal earlier in December.

# Tories have six-point lead: Poll

**POLITICS** A new poll suggests Prime Minister Stephen Harper's Conservatives are maintaining a six-point lead over the Liberals, despite facing daily fire over their handling of the Afghanistan detainee issue.

The survey by The Canadian Press Harris-Decima, indicates support for the Conservatives stands at 34 per cent nationally, compared to 28 per cent for the Liberals, 14 for the NDP and 13 for the Greens.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Stories from Olympic family members sought

**GAMES** Hundreds of mothers and fathers, brothers and sisters will be in Vancouver cheering on Canada's Olympians at the 2010 Winter Games.

Petro-Canada is looking for a couple of families to tell their stories.

Through Petro-Canada's Family Correspondent contest, two individuals, along with a family member each, will be chosen to go to Vancouver where they'll chronicle the activities of athletes' families via Twitter, Facebook and YouTube.

"It's a really fun project and bird's eye view of what's happening at the Olympics," said former Canadian figure skating star Kurt Browning.

Contestants must submit a 30-second video to facebook.com/dreambig.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

## **News** in brief

**AIR INDIA** The final report from the federal inquiry into the 1985 Air India bombing that killed 329 people is complete, and should be released early next year. The commission says the report, which is now being translated, will be published in five volumes totalling more than 3,000 pages.

**KHADR** Canadian Omar Khadr will be among about 100 Guantanamo detainees who U.S. officials say will be transferred to a prison in rural Illinois, but his lawyers say they aren't celebrating. Khadr, 23, was to be told the news yesterday.

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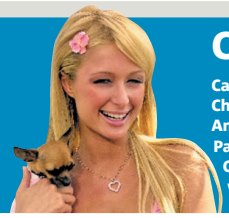
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**Female players won't be charged with assaulting male cheerleader**

Prosecutors say they won't file criminal charges against two Missouri women's basketball players accused of beating up a male cheerleader. Leading scorers Amanda Hanneman and Jessra Johnson were arrested five days ago on suspicion of assault after the cheerleader said he was beaten up by the pair. Coach Cindy Stein suspended the players the following day. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# World



## Chihuahua surplus blamed on celebs

California has more chihuahuas than it can handle, and it has Hollywood to blame. Chihuahuas make up 30 per cent or more of the dog populations at many California shelters. And experts say pop culture is to blame, with fans imitating chihuahua-toting celebrities like Paris Hilton and Miley Cyrus, then abandoning the dogs. The problem appears to be specific to California — shelters elsewhere would love to share the wealth, said Gail Buchwald, senior vice-president overseeing the ASPCA adoption centre in New York City. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Talks deadlocked, protests flare

**Police fired pepper spray and beat protesters with batons outside the UN climate conference yesterday, as disputes inside left major issues unresolved just two days before world leaders hope to sign a historic agreement to fight global warming.**

Hundreds of protesters were trying to disrupt the 193-country conference, the latest action in days of demonstrations to demand "climate justice" — firm steps to combat global warming. Police said 230 protesters were detained.

Inside the convention hall, Venezuelan President Hugo Chavez echoed the protesters' sentiments: "If the climate was a bank, a capitalist bank, they would have saved it."

Earlier, negotiators dealing with core issues debated until just before dawn without setting new goals for reducing greenhouse gas emissions or for financing poorer countries' efforts to cope with coming climate change, key elements of any deal.

In those overnight talks, the American delegation apparently objected to a proposed text it felt might bind the U.S. prematurely to reducing greenhouse gas emissions before Congress acts. U.S. envoys insisted, for example, on replacing the word "shall" with the conditional "should."

The Copenhagen talks so far have been marked by sharp disagreements between China and the U.S., and between rich and poor nations. Still unresolved are the questions of emissions targets for industrial countries, billions of dollars a year in funding for poor countries to contend with global warming, and verifying the actions of emerging powers like China to ensure that promises are kept.

Addressing the full conference for the European Union, Swedish Environment Minister Andreas Carlgren, urged the U.S. and China to raise their emissions-reduction targets.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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THIBAULT CAMUS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Danish riot police use pepper spray on protesters outside the UN climate conference in Copenhagen yesterday.

# Dozens of needles found inside boy

**BRAZIL** A two-year-old boy has as many as 50 metal sewing needles inside his body and a doctor treating the boy said yesterday they were apparently stuck there one by one.

Dr. Luiz Cesar Soltoski told The Associated Press that surgeons hope to remove most of the needles — some as long as five centimetres — but because some are stuck in his lungs, they have to wait until the child's breathing improves.

Some cannot be removed; they are too close to vital organs or actually inside them, Soltoski said.

The boy's mother brought him to a hospital in the city of Ibotirama on Thursday, saying he was complaining of pain.

The mother told police she doesn't know how the needles got inside her son, but police have opened an investigation.

Soltoski said he believes the needles were stuck into his body one by one because it would have been impossible for him to swallow them.

The boy is in intensive care, but Soltoski said his condition has improved since he was admitted.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



ADENILTON O. COSTA/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

An X-ray shows the needles inside the boy.




## Iran fires most advanced missile

**TEHRAN** Iran yesterday test-fired an upgraded version of its most advanced missile, which is capable of hitting Israel and parts of Europe, in a new show of strength aimed at preventing any military strike against it amid the nuclear standoff with the West. The test was the latest version of Iran's longest-range missile, the Sajjil-2, with a range of about 2,000 kilometres. That range places Israel, Iran's sworn enemy, well within reach, as well as U.S. bases in the Gulf region.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Two 10-year-olds charged with rape

**BRITAIN** London police say they have charged a pair of 10-year-old boys with raping an eight-year-old girl. Scotland Yard said yesterday that the alleged rape happened in west London two months ago, but officials declined to provide any other details of the case. Both boys are to be arraigned in court today but are not expected to be identified. British law typically shields juveniles from public identification in criminal cases.

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**Taliban to release video of hostage**
The Taliban have announced they will release a new video of a U.S. soldier captured in Afghanistan. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# '09 deadliest year ever for journalists

**The November massacre of 30 media workers in the Philippines made 2009 the deadliest year ever for journalists, according to a report to be released today.**

The Committee to Protect Journalists, an independent press advocacy group, says at least 68 journalists were killed in 2009, a 60 per cent increase over 2008 when 42 deaths were recorded.

Until the November massacre in the Philippine province of Maguindanao, where 57 people including 30 journalists were killed, 2009 seemed likely to end with 38 killings — a lower death toll than the year before.

The previous one-year record was in 2007, with 67 killings.

Four journalists were also killed in Pakistan, making it the second most deadly country in 2009, followed by Russia where three journalists were killed. Two journalists were killed in both Mexico and Sri Lanka.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## Tiger, Elin headed for divorce?

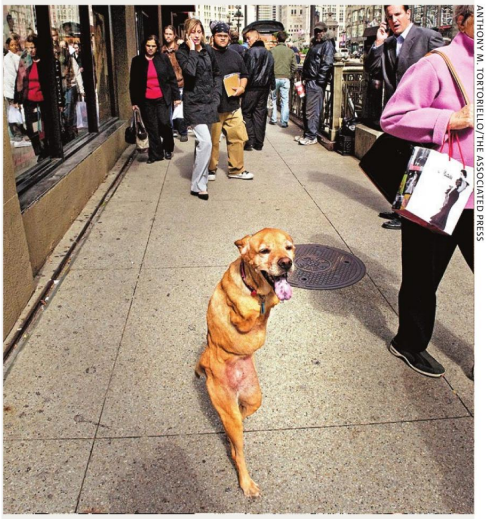
**FLORIDA** Tiger Woods's wife is planning to divorce him after Christmas, a number of U.S. media outlets reported last night.

Photos this week show Elin Nordegren, 29, near the couple's home in Windermere, Fla., not wearing her wedding ring.

"She plans to leave Tiger," an unnamed source close to Nordegren told People magazine. The media outlets all quoted unnamed sources, but they all pointed to the same thing: divorce. ABC News also quoted a source as saying: "Divorce is 100 per cent on. She's not rushing to divorce, however. She wants all the dirty laundry to be out on the table before she signs anything."

The couple married in 2004 and have two children. TORSTAR NEWS SERVICE

## Chicago **Faith walks**



ANTHONY M. TORTORIELLO/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Faith, a two-legged dog, walks on Chicago's Michigan Avenue. The dog has become an inspiration for people, including soldiers, as she travels around the U.S.




## Santa on naughty list as role model

**AUSTRALIA** Yes, Virginia, there really is a Santa Claus. And he's a public health menace.

Public health expert Nathan Grills of Monash University in Australia says the beloved Christmas icon should ditch his sleigh and start biking or walking to lose his jelly belly.

Grills' light-hearted research was published online in the annual Christmas issue of the British medical journal BMJ. After conducting a literature review, Grills identified a "very high Santa awareness" among children. He determined that Santa made a reckless role model, noting his frequent cookie snacks, occasional cigars and refusal to don a helmet during "extreme sports such as roof surfing and chimney jumping."

He also found a correlation between countries that celebrate Santa and large numbers of fat children. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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## Comment

# Parties unravel mysteries




A co-worker recently told me that he wasn't sure if I was an introvert or an extrovert. I replied that I was still trying to figure it out.

We're all social chameleons. The way we act around our colleagues is very different from the way we act around our friends. Due to prescribed expectations, we don't generally have the opportunity to get to know our co-workers until we're outside the restrictive office environment.

Enter: The office Christmas party.

At a recent holiday shindig for a company I freelance for, a buzzed colleague and I bonded over our mutual infatuation for music from the 1960s. I met the sparkling, chatty fiancée of a quiet co-worker. And I gaped in awe as a respectable higher-up dropped to his knees during Boney M's Rasputin and proceeded to entertain us with some scarily proficient Russian dance moves.



What. In. The. Heck?

Who are these people that we spend so many of our waking hours in the presence of? We know their names, their positions and what they eat for lunch, but their personal lives, preferences and real personalities are, for the most part, a mystery. That is until it's time to party!

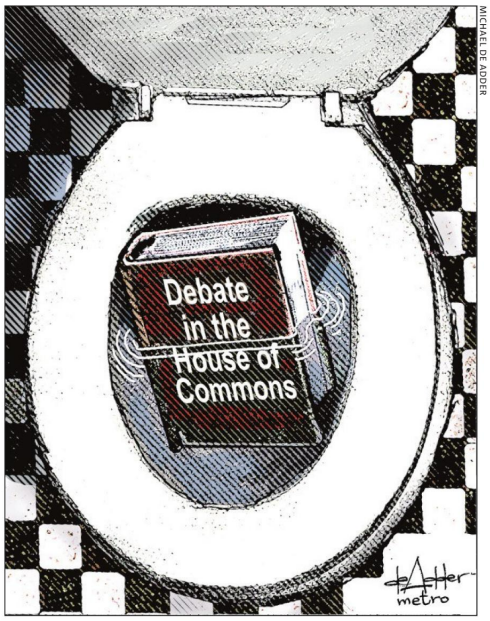
"At parties, some people believe that the normal rules that govern the identities they have negotiated with one another are relaxed," explains social psychology Prof. William B. Swann. "The boss who is ordinarily chilly with her subordinates may feel that she can warm up, or co-workers who are normally competitive with one another may be persuaded to ignore this and try to relax and enjoy one another. Alcohol can exaggerate these tendencies by lowering social inhibition and making people more open to experimenting with identities that they would not dream of assuming while sober."

But mistletoe and tumblers of extra-special eggnog among co-workers is potentially problematic.

"The downside of suspending the identity negotiation process for parties is that it can be difficult to revert back to the original identity," says Swann. "This will be particularly true if the party atmosphere encourages us to reveal something that could poison a relationship (e.g., hostility or inappropriate attraction)."

True, you may never look at Janice from accounts receivable in the same way ever again (cheap drunk, opera hobbyist), but anything that reveals the humanity of those around us probably isn't such a bad thing.

Sofi Papamarko is a 20-something writer based in Toronto. Her heroes include Desmond Morris and Nancy Sinatra.




MICHAEL DE ADDER

## Views

# What is Barbie wearing under her burka?




Authenticity has never been Barbie the doll's strong suit. It's estimated that if she were lifesize, she would tip over because of the size of her breasts.

So I shouldn't be surprised that as part of the 500 international outfits designed to mark Barbie's 50th birthday — yes, she's that old but doesn't she look good for her age — "Muslim" Barbie is wearing a burka.

As a Muslim woman, I am sadly all too familiar with the media shorthand for "Muslim" and "woman," equalling Covered in Black Muslim Woman. This being Barbie though, the burka isn't in forbidding black. Italian designer Eliana Lorena, who made the outfits for an auction Sotheby's is holding to collect money for Save the Children, instead made Muslim Barbie's burka vermillion and lime green!

What will the Taliban say?

What on Earth are little girls supposed to do with Burka Barbie? More intriguingly, what is Barbie wearing under that lime green burka? I was at a loss until I came across an ad by German lingerie company Liaison Dangereuse.

A woman steps out of the shower into stilettos (because they're the first thing a woman wears after showering, of course). She stands nude at her mirror to apply makeup, followed by lingerie, on top of which she throws a burka (black, not lime green though). The clip ends with the tantalizing line "Sexiness for everyone. Everywhere."

That's more like the Barbie we've known for 50 years! So, are Burka Barbie and Liaison Dangereuse in some kind of marketing cahoots?

The final piece of the puzzle came when the BBC reported that on the Saudi religion channel Awtan TV women presenters are dressed from head to toe in a black niqab. (The burka has a mesh where the eyes are, the niqab leaves the eyes uncovered).

Eureka!

Those Burka Barbies must be spinoffs for those women presenters, one of whom told the BBC that wearing the niqab helps her to concentrate more on her work and what she looks like is irrelevant. It begs the question why she didn't choose radio instead, but, hey, I'm still trying to figure out this Burka Barbie business.

Apparently, fans of these women in black from head to toe — gloves included — urge them to stay just the way they are. Little did Ms. Lorena realize that she was actually supplying a demand most of us never knew existed — Burka Barbie TV Presenter!

I never was one for dolls.

Mona Eltahawy is an award-winning Egyptian-born commentator and public speaker on Arab and Muslim issues. She reported on the Middle East for 10 years before moving to the U.S.

## Worth mentioning

# Ancient climate study points to sea level rise

Global warming in this century might raise sea levels more than expected in future centuries, says a study that looked at what happened at a time when Neanderthals roamed Europe.



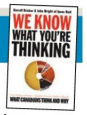

Unless global warming is curbed or expensive measures are taken to hold back rising water, the projected sea level rise could submerge about one-third of Florida, southern Manhattan, much of Bangladesh and almost all the Netherlands, for example, researchers said.

An expert praised the work but cautioned that such projections can't be made with precision.

Earth naturally alternates between ice ages and warmer times, due to changes in the tilt of the planet and its orbit around the sun. It is now in a warmer spell that began some 10,000 years ago. But scientists say man-made, heat-trapping gases are driving the warming beyond the natural amount.

Warmth can raise sea levels by expanding water volume and melting huge sheets of ice in Greenland and Antarctica. To get an idea of what future warming might do to sea levels, scientists at Princeton and Harvard universities looked at Earth's last warm period, which peaked some 125,000 years ago, sometimes called the Eemian stage. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

## We Know What You're Thinking




**35%** The percentage of Canadians who would choose their mother over a celebrity to take to a movie premiere.

IPSOS REID

Tell us your views by email to halifaxletters@metronews.ca or comment on metronews.ca or on Twitter @metrohalifax
Letters must include sender's full name, address and phone number – street name and phone numbers will NOT be published. We reserve the right to edit letters.

**Playboy falls on NYSE over sale concerns**
Playboy Enterprises Inc., owner of the namesake magazine, fell in New York Stock Exchange trading on concern that talks about a sale to Iconix Brand Group Inc. are collapsing. A sale of Playboy would mean an exit for founder and majority shareholder Hugh Hefner, 83. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Business

| DOLLAR | GAS | OIL | TSX |
|---|---|---|---|
| US 94.30¢ | US $5.48 | US $72.66 | 11,637.04 |
| US 0.08¢ | US 3.7¢ | US $1.97 | 96.02 |

EDITOR: FERMIN.DESOUZA@METRONEWS.CA

## Wind Mobile blows into Canada

**PHONE** Wireless provider Wind Mobile launched its cellphone and data service yesterday, bringing a new player and more competition into the already hotly contested cellphone market.

Wind, owned by Yak long-distance provider Globalive, opened 18 outlets in the Toronto area, with plans to open more later this week in Calgary and in Vancouver, Ottawa and Edmonton in the new year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

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SCANLIFE
Ireland is the latest country whose financial woes are provoking economic anxiety across the Euro-zone. Scan this barcode for the full article.

## Solar DIY **A bright idea**


GUS RUELAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Lowe's employees stock the first do-it-yourself home solar panel system by Andalay at a Lowe's in an L.A. suburb yesterday. The panels convert solar power into electricity that can be used to power a home. If the solar panels produce more electricity than what is needed to run a home, the excess can be sold to the local electric company.

## **Business** in brief

**STAYING HOME** Travel by U.S. residents to Canada fell 2.6 per cent between September and October to 1.6 million trips, the first decline in travel by Americans to Canada in four months.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

# Carney: Don't get seduced

## BoC governor gives warning to avoid credit risks

**Bank of Canada governor Mark Carney issued a caution to Canadians and the chartered banks yesterday: Interest rates are going up and they should take care not to get caught out.**

Expanding on previous warnings, the bank governor told a business audience in Toronto the current low interest rate environment may be luring Canadians to borrow too much, and banks to extend loans they will later regret.


Mark Carney

Canadians have taken on more debt even during the recession, which is unusual, Carney said.

But while Canadians may be able to afford the added debt burden now when interest rates are at historic lows, they may get caught short when rates return to more normal levels.

"The combination of sustained growth of household debt relative to income and a rising interest rate environment could increase the vulnerability of households to an adverse shock," he said in notes on the speech released by the central bank in Ottawa.

Carney did not say when he expects interest rates to start rising, although economists believe he will make his first move on his lower-bound 0.25 per cent policy rate in mid-2010.

It is not the first time Carney and the central bank have voiced such concerns, most recently last Thursday in the central bank's semi-annual Financial Systems Review, which cited household debt as the number one risk factor to Canada's economic well-being.

THE CANADIAN PRESS





**NOTICE: Christmas Day and New Year's Day Collection & Processing Services Garbage/Organics/Recyclables**

Residents of Halifax Regional Municipality are advised that there will be **no** garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on Christmas Day, Friday, December 25, 2009. Collection services for that day will be provided on **Boxing Day, Saturday, December 26, 2009.** There will be **no** garbage, organics or recyclables collection services on New Year's Day, Friday, January 1, 2010. Collection services for that day will be provided on the **next day, Saturday, January 2, 2010.**

| | |
|---|---|
| **No Collection** Christmas Day Friday, **December 25**, 2009 | **Collection will occur Boxing Day, Saturday, December 26, 2009** |
| **No Collection** New Year's Day Friday, **January 1**, 2010 | **Collection will occur** the next day **Saturday, January 2, 2010** |
| **Otter Lake Facility Closed** Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25th Sunday, Dec. 27th New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1st Sunday, Jan. 3rd | **Otter Lake Facility Open** Dec. 24th & 31st - 7am to 6pm Dec. 26th, 28th, 29th, 30th - 7am tp 7pm Jan. 2nd - 7am to 7pm |
| **HRM Recycling Plant Closed** Christmas Day, Friday, Dec. 25th New Year's Day, Friday, Jan. 1st | **HRM Recycling Plant Open** Dec. 24th, 26th - 7:30 am to 6:00 pm Dec. 31st & Jan. 2nd - 7:30 am to 6:00 pm |

Collection services can begin as early as 7:00 a.m. To ensure collection, residents may place materials curbside the evening prior to collection day. The HRM's residential Household Hazardous Waste (HHW) Depot will be **Closed** Saturday, December 26th and Saturday, January 2nd but will be **Open** on Saturday, January 9th, 2010 from 9 am to 4 pm.

**After the Holidays...**

- Natural Christmas trees: picked up on your organics collection week; must be free of plastic, tinsel, ornaments, metal rings, nails, stands and plastic tree bags
- Compost or mulch your greenery (boughs, trees, etc.)
- Wreaths with metal wire frame or plastic cord go in your garbage bag
- Recycle paper gift wrap free of ribbons, bows and ornaments; place in a grocery bag
- Non-paper gift wrap and foil wrap: place in your garbage bag
- Corrugated cardboard: tie and bundle for recycling
- Boxboard (shoe and cereal type boxes): place in your green cart
- Recycling/re-use tips: save gift wrap, bows, ribbons, cards, etc....for use next year; give old toys and clothing to a charitable organization

*Thank you and have a safe and happy holiday season. For more information on HRM's composting and recycling programs, check your 2009 or 2010 collection schedule, visit our website at www.halifax.ca/wrms or call 490-4000.*

HALIFAX REGIONAL MUNICIPALITY
Let's Waste Less
R333 6912

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New gift ideas. Every day. All holiday season long.
FOR MORE GIFT IDEAS VISIT Sears.ca

Today only!
Thursday, December 17
50% OFF
Sears original ticketed prices of
*All reg. & clearance-priced Fall & Holiday dresses, pantsuits & evening separates from our Dress Shop

*All men's reg.-priced dress pants, blazers, suits, suit separates, sports jackets, dress shirts, ties, belts and wallets

*All girls' reg.-priced holiday dresses and sets, size 4-16.



Visit our Wish STATION
Give us your list and we'll do the work
Free gift wrap
Mon.-Thurs. Details in store.

Spend $75 or more** on reg.-priced fragrances and receive a
$15 instant rebate
not $10, like our competitors
**Before taxes. Valid in Sears Department stores only. Excludes Special Purchase fragrances priced at 19.99-34.99 and other fragrance savings offers.



*These savings offers exclude items with prices ending in .97, Special Purchase dress shirts & ties priced at 9.99 & 19.99, Lands' End brand and currently advertised items.
Clearance fashions available while quantities last
NE123G709 © 2009. Sears Canada Inc.



# Microsoft allows new browse option

## Agreement stops antitrust charges brought by European Union

**More than 100 million Europeans will get to pick a Web browser after Microsoft agreed to offer Internet users a choice to avoid fresh fines — a move that could represent a real thawing of long-standing tensions between the software company and the European Union.**

The deal announced yesterday ends all current antitrust charges brought by European Union regulators. Beginning in March, Microsoft Corp. will provide a pop-up screen to all European users of its Windows operating system, asking them to choose one or more of five major browsers — including Microsoft's Internet Explorer, Mozilla's Firefox, Google Inc.'s Chrome and Apple Inc.'s Safari — and seven smaller rivals.

In return, the European Commission will drop charges it filed against Microsoft in January, when it said tying Internet Explorer to Windows — already installed on most computers — gave the browser an unfair advantage. That was the latest in a long list of concerns — in more than a decade of EU antitrust action, Microsoft has been fined 1.7 billion euros.

Neelie Kroes, the EU's competition commissioner, said the deal resolves "a serious competition concern" for a key market in the development of the Internet.

"It is as if you went to the supermarket and they only offered you one brand of shampoo on the shelf, and all the other choices are hidden out the back, and not everyone knows about them," she said. "What we are saying today is that all the brands should be on the shelf."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Chrysler to invest in Mich. plant: Source

Chrysler LLC will announce today that it plans to invest millions in a factory near Detroit to build fuel-efficient four-cylinder engines designed by Italian automaker Fiat Group SpA, a person briefed on the announcement said.

The Auburn Hills, Mich., automaker and Michigan Gov. Jennifer Granholm have scheduled a news conference to announce the investment in the factory located in Dundee, Mich., south of Detroit, said the person, who asked not to be identified because the announcement had not been made.

The Michigan Economic Growth Authority Board in November approved a $4.6-million, 10-year tax credit for Chrysler in exchange for investing $179 million in the plant to create 155 jobs.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

HARBOURVIEW WEEKEND MARKET
One Roof - 200 Shops - A World of Shopping
SPECIAL HOLIDAY HOURS
Open Sat, Dec 19 to Wed, Dec 23
Sat & Sun: 9am-4pm •Mon - Wed 11am-6pm
100's of last minute unique gift and stocking stuffer ideas:
Farmers Market, Flea Market, Crafts, Antiques & Collectibles, Toys, Clothing, Specialty Items and more!
• Food Court • Tons of Free Parking •
42 Canal St, Dartmouth 407•3323 harbourviewmarket.com

**Lions take on undefeated Slammers**
The Halifax Lions host the undefeated, nationally-eighth-ranked Woodstock Slammers (26-0-1) tonight at 7 p.m. at the Halifax Forum. The Lions, last in the Bent Division with a 10-11-2 record, are above .500 (10-7-2) in their past 19 games. METRO HALIFAX

# Sports



## Grant gets UFC contract

Cole Harbour's T.J. Grant has landed a four-fight Ultimate Fighting Championship contract. Grant, who has a 2-1 UFC record and is 15-3 overall, beat Kevin Burns in UFC 107 on Saturday and earned a $65,000 US bonus for knockout of the night. METRO HALIFAX

EDITOR: DON.MCHOULL@METRONEWS.CA

# Passing on the art of stickhandling

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**A couple of years ago, hockey dad and coach Dean Dachyshyn started to notice a somewhat disturbing trend.**

"I realized one of the biggest weaknesses kids have is stickhandling," said Dachyshyn, a former pro hockey player with the Nova Scotia Oilers who now coaches his 11-year-old son on the peewee AAA Halifax Hawks. "After practice, the hockey stick goes in the trunk of the car and doesn't come out until the next game."

Dachyshyn wasn't the only one. Steve Hankinson and fellow Hawks hockey dads Tim Burke and Paul Behner also took note. Today, they're the team behind Bedford's Skillz Systems, a company hoping to foster a generation of stickhandling wizards.

Over the past few years, Skillz Systems has developed a product called QuickStickz that uses video-game technology to help kids get their sticks out of the trunk. QuickStickz comes with a special ball and infrared camera — all you need is your trusty stick and some open floor space and away you go.

"The camera system tracks a special ball and the hockey stick controls the action," Dachyshyn said. "The magic behind it is, you have to look at your computer screen (instead of looking down) to know what's going on. You're practising properly, using your peripheral vision, with the ball on your stick."

Kids get to play a variety of games with the system, which gets them stickhandling when they might otherwise be sitting on the couch, using their thumbs on a video controller.

"They're getting better and don't even know it," Dachyshyn said.




RYAN TAPLIN/METRO HALIFAX

Former Nova Scotia Oilers forward Dean Dachyshyn, vice-president of Skillz Systems, demonstrates some stickhandling ability next to several boxes of QuickStickz, an interactive hockey training system which helps hockey players to keep their head up while learning proper stickhandling.

m.metronews.ca

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*Learn how to scan the barcode with the instructions at the top of pg 3*

Dachyshyn says the response from the hockey community has been positive since the product hit the market last month. Prince Edward Island's Andrews Hockey Growth Program has added QuickStickz as a development tool, while individual sales have been increasing as word spreads. "We're hoping to revolutionize how kids learn how to stickhandle," said Dachyshyn.

• Visit quickstickz.com for more information.

# Knotek to have no shortage of suitors as trade period draws near

MATTHEW WUEST
matthew.wuest@metronews.ca

**HOCKEY** If Tomas Knotek has played his last game with the Halifax Mooseheads, it's going to take a juicy trade offer that general manager Cam Russell can't refuse.

It's also going to require the 19-year-old captain's stamp of approval.

Knotek, the most sought-after player on the Mooseheads' roster with the final QMJHL trade period set to open Saturday, has left to join the Czech Republic for the world junior championship and won't be back until early January.

Russell is likely to field plenty of trade offers before then.

"We'll sit down and talk to Tomas about the possibilities," Russell said.



Cam Russell

"At the end of the day, if a trade does come, it's a trade that has to make sense for him and the organization.

"You're giving up your captain and he's such a big part of your team, it would be a very difficult move."

Knotek leads the Mooseheads in scoring with 32 points in 34 games and would be a welcome addition to a contending team looking to upgrade a European spot. Gerrad Grant, another 19-year-old who can produce offence, would also be an upgrade to teams looking for a quality forward.

Other veterans who could draw interest are Pascal Amyot, Charles Bety, Paul Dimitruk and Linden Bahm.

The Mooseheads are looking to acquire as many picks as possible in the next two drafts and started that process long ago with trades of 19-year-olds Gabriel O'Connor and Alexis Piette and overagers Yuri Cheremetiev and Alexandre Brunet.

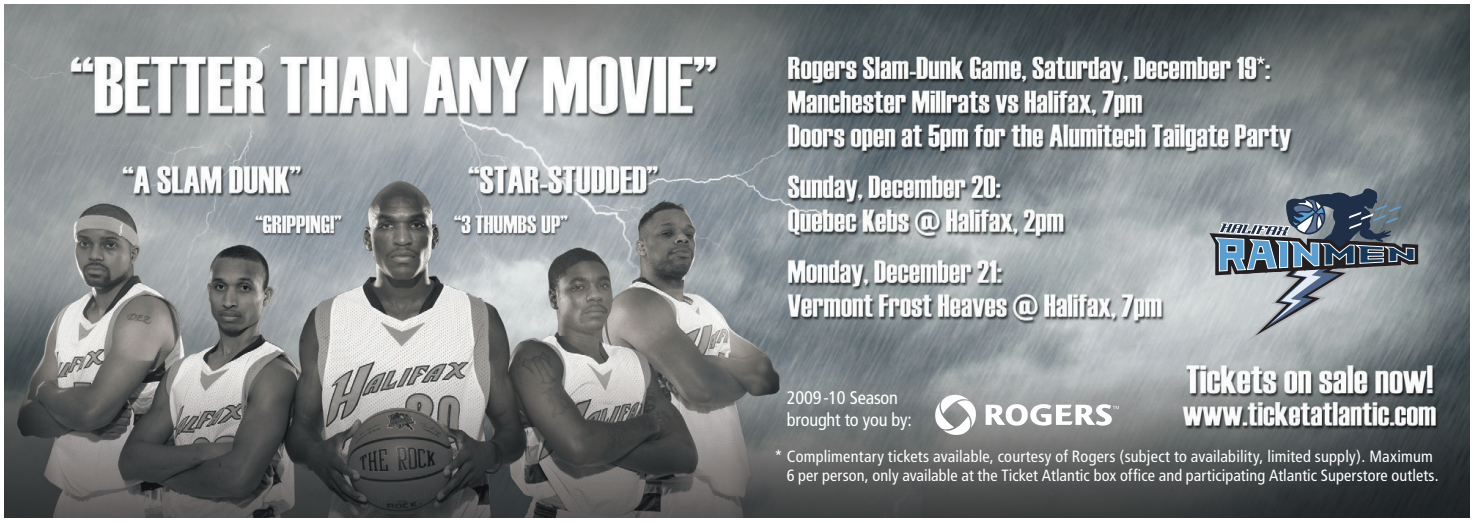
But Russell doesn't want to go too far in what will be his first holiday trading period as GM.

"You have to be careful not to get too young and send the wrong message to the players," Russell said.

"You want to be competitive and you need that good leadership. You have to make sure you have a good mix of veterans and rookies."

### Lewis called up by Herd

• The Halifax Mooseheads have recalled 16-year-old defenceman Trey Lewis from the midget AAA Miramichi (N.B.) Rivermen. Lewis, who has four goals, six assists and 22 penalty minutes in 11 games, was drafted in the fourth round (67th overall) in June's draft. Lewis joins recent call-up Jamie Bishop to give the Mooseheads eight defencemen.



**Spezza out 6 to 8 weeks**

Jason Spezza will miss six-to-eight weeks with a torn ligament in his right knee, the Ottawa Senators said yesterday. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Offence biggest question

## World junior team seems to have shortage of scoring threats

**With so much firepower missing, the first question about Canada's team is where the goals will come from at the world junior championship.**

After Jordan Eberle of the Regina Pats, who scored six times in as many games at last year's world juniors, and the dynamic Taylor Hall of the Windsor Spitfires, the team looks strong on two-way character forwards and less so on offensive flash and dash.

But the potential for goals is there, and one of the team's best weapons, power-play point man Ryan Ellis, is not worried.

"Eberle's got close to a goal a game and (Adam) Henrique's close to that in our league (the Ontario Hockey League)," Ellis said yesterday after final cuts were made at the Canadian team selection camp. "Hallsie's close to that and a few guys from the Quebec league as well.

"I don't think it's an issue, or ever will be in Canada. Everyone seems to think it's a problem, but I guess we'll see what happens."

Concern arose before the camp when centre Cody Hodgson, who led the tournament last year in Ottawa with five goals and 11 assists, pulled out with a back injury.

The team was already without eight players still eligible for the under-20 tournament but who have graduated to the NHL — John Tavares, Evander Kane, Steven Stamkos, Matt Duchene, Ryan O'Reilly, Michael Del Zotto, James Wright and Tyler Myers.

With only a few of those players, Canada would be considered a shoo-in for a record sixth straight gold medal when the tournament begins Dec. 26 in Regina and Saskatoon. Without them, the country's depth will be tested. THE CANADIAN PRESS



RYAN REMIORZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Canadian national junior team member Taylor Hall yawns as he waits for the team photo with Jordan Caron, left, and Braydon Schenn, right, in Regina yesterday.

# NHL aims to add second outdoor game for Canada

It's been a long time since Canada looked this good to the NHL.

Ten years ago, commissioner Gary Bettman would come to the league's board of governors meetings and get besieged by questions about how the Canadian teams were going to survive. The conversation was considerably different over two days in Pebble Beach, where the league gave indications it was looking to increase its exposure in the country.

"The cycles of life never cease to amaze me," Bettman said after the meetings wrapped up yesterday. "Yes, I remember very clearly the prognostications by some of your (media) colleagues that there would be one team left in Canada and everybody else would be in the United States. And now, the prognostication is, 'No, we've got clubs that need to move out of the United States.'

"It wasn't right originally, and it's not right now. But it's part of what we deal with."

The most notable piece of news to come out of the meetings was Bettman's acknowledgment that the league would like to create a second outdoor game to be held in Canada next season. The NHL had looked at holding one at Calgary's McMahon Stadium this year, but couldn't make the timing work, according to the commissioner.

A game in the 2010-11 season would likely be played on CBC's Hockey Day in Canada. Bettman said all six Canadian teams have expressed interest in participating in it.

"We didn't ask for a document sworn to under oath, but in the course of conversations, I think every one of the Canadian clubs has said either 'we want to host and be in it or at least be in it,'" Bettman said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

### Saskatoon plan

- One Canadian city that was part of the discussion is Saskatoon because the Ice Edge group would like to have the Coyotes play five regular-season games there. While some governors quietly said they weren't crazy about the plan, none seemed willing to mount strong public opposition for fear of hampering the sale.

## Sports in brief

**INJURIES** Cincinnati Bengals receiver Chris Henry suffered serious injuries after falling out of the back of a pickup truck during a domestic dispute with his fiancée, police said yesterday. Henry was found in the road in south Charlotte "apparently suffering life-threatening injuries," according to Charlotte-Mecklenburg police. Police spokesman Robert Fey said officers were stationed near the 26-year-old Henry's hospital room.

**BRODEUR** Martin Brodeur tied Patrick Roy's record for regular-season appearances by a goalie last night when he started for the New Jersey Devils against the Montreal Canadiens, his 1,029th game.

**BLUE JAYS** The Roy Halladay blockbuster is now complete and the ace right-hander is no longer a Toronto Blue Jay. Halladay has been shipped off to the Philadelphia Phillies along with $6 million US in exchange for three prospects. The Blue Jays dealt one of the players — outfielder Michael Taylor — to the Oakland Athletics for infield prospect Brett Wallace. Staying with the Blue Jays are pitcher Kyle Drabek and catcher Travis d'Arnaud.

**SOCCER** Frank Lampard scored a late penalty yesterday to give Chelsea a 2-1 win over last-place Portsmouth that restored its three-point lead at the top of the Premier League. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## SCOREBOARD

**NHL**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Ottawa 2 Buffalo 0
Phoenix 6 Toronto 3
Carolina 5 Dallas 3
Florida 4 Atlanta 3
New Jersey 2 Montreal 1
N.Y. Islanders 2 N.Y. Rangers 1
Chicago 3 St. Louis 0
Anaheim at Vancouver

TODAY'S GAMES

Minnesota at Montreal
N.Y. Rangers at N.Y. Islanders
Pittsburgh at Philadelphia
Dallas at Atlanta
Phoenix at Columbus
Tampa Bay at Detroit
Los Angeles at Calgary
Nashville at Edmonton
Anaheim at San Jose

**NBA**

YESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Orlando 118 Toronto 99
Atlanta 110 Memphis 97
Cleveland 108 Philadelphia 101
Dallas 100 Oklahoma City 86
Indiana 101 Charlotte 98
L.A. Clippers 120 Minnesota 95
L.A. Lakers 107 Milwaukee 106 (OT)
New Orleans 95 Detroit 87
Utah 108 New Jersey 92
Houston at Denver
Washington at Sacramento
San Antonio at Golden State

TODAY'S GAMES

Orlando at Miami
New York at Chicago
Phoenix at Portland




**In concert**
An Evening with Il Divo — Live In Barcelona features a 10-track CD and accompanying DVD of the show in English and Spanish versions. For more, go to ildivo.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES




HOLIDAY

# Shopping Guide

SPECIAL FEATURES EDITOR: STEPHANIE.BOMBA@METRONEWS.CA

# 5 great gifts for the gadget-lover




The Savant is a unified console that you can link to your wireless Apple device to control all of the important stuff in your home from anywhere in the world.

RAFAEL BRUSILOW
for Metro Canada

**Sometimes gadgets go beyond simple necessity and actually inspire the imagination with their creativity, practicality or cleverness. After all, what is great technology if not the truest example of human ingenuity?**

Here are some of this year's coolest gadgets:

## Savant
### starts at $6,100

Remember all that talk years ago about being able to control things like the stove and air conditioner in all parts of your home remotely? Well, it looks like that reality is finally more than hot air — behold the Savant, a unified console that can link to your wireless Apple device and lets you control all the important stuff in your home from one place, or even anywhere in the world. Yes, you can whip out your iPhone in Paris to turn down the heating in your empty Canadian condo. Pull up a picture of a particular room in your home and control things in that specific room like lights, security systems and even your stereo system remotely. It's not cheap, but for the people drooling over it, price will probably be no obstacle to getting this thing.




The Escort Entourage CIS powered by Blackline GPS is great for the true car lover.

The uCorder wearable camcorder, below, is small enough to carry around with you. The IlaDusk women's personal safety alarm, below right, is just $29.



## uCorder wearable camcorder
### $90-$120

Tiny and convenient, the uCorder is a nifty little video camera small enough to actually carry around with you so you'll be ready to tape your next lecture, whale sighting or hilarious karaoke moment instead of just wishing you had brought your large clunker along. Measuring 3.5-inches tall, 1-inch wide and 0.5-inch thick, it's definitely one of the smallest video cameras around. It easily fits into a shirt pocket or clips to a lanyard and can even be pinned to clothing for your next bungee jump. Records in standard AVI or audio-only WAV file formats and available with 1 or 2 GB of memory.




## Escort Entourage CIS powered by Blackline GPS
### $399.95 + $14.95 monthly subscription fee

For the true car lover (and worrier-abouter), the Escort Entourage CIS is a satellite-capable tracking device that lets you get a handle on where your car is at all times, track it remotely online or on your smartphone, and eventually send the authorities out to recover it. Tamper-sensing technology will alert you by email and text message if your car gets broken into or stolen, and you can then track its location in real time on Google Maps or Microsoft Earth. Pretty nifty for also keeping tabs on where your teenage son is actually taking the car when he says he's heading to the movies — and you can even tell how fast the car is being driven. Turn it on or off using your own wireless key.

## For gals
## IlaDusk women's personal safety alarm
### $29

Named after the Sanskrit goddess of speech, this alarm emits a high-decibel, piercing female scream when activated that is loud enough to disorient an attacker and command the attention of anyone nearby, to help prevent a sexual assault. Unlike other alarms, this one is stylish and sleek when it attaches neatly to a keyring or clipped to the outside of a handbag, meaning women will be far more likely to have it at hand when needed — which can make all the difference.




The Panasonic Pro-Curve 4-blade men's shaver can be used for wet or dry shaves.

## For guys
## Panasonic Pro-Curve 4-blade men's shaver
### $399.99

For the guy who wants to pamper his face (and has the cash to do so), the Pro-Curve has four nano-technology shaped blades and can be used for wet or dry shaves with its wicked-fast 14,000 rpm motor. A built-in sonic vibration cleaning mode, pop-up trimmer, illuminated LCD screen, 45-minute continuous charge and ready for universal voltage (100-240V) no matter where you travel, despite the expense, it's hard to find a more capable and satisfying shaver.





**Rockstar style**
Miller Jacket, $128, by Stella McCartney for GapKids and babyGap. For more, go to gapcanada.com. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Holiday Shopping Guide

# Music to their ears

KEITH CARMAN
for Metro Canada

**Christmas shopping is fun but there's always the inevitable freak-out: What the heck am I gonna buy (Insert Name Here)? Luckily, you've got music on your side.**

For many, music is actually at the top of their wish list. With others, it's a safe, keep-on-giving bet ... provided you know their aural tastes. Regardless, navigating music store shelves can be daunting, with the thousands of albums released this year. That's why we here at Metro have compiled what we believe to be some of the strongest releases of 2009. Hopefully they'll give you ideas and your beloved audiophile endless holiday cheer.

### Pop

Britney, Beyoncé and Pink released albums in 2008, so this year has seen more touring than new music from the major pop sensations. Still, one could do worse on the PG Richter scale than to pick up **Hannah Montana**'s latest album 3 (Walt Disney Records). If your kids prefer her sans a.k.a., **Miley Cyrus**' The Time of Our Lives (Hollywood) was noted as a strong affair, as was **The Jonas Brothers**' Lines, Vines And Trying Times (Hollywood).

### Rock

For beneficiaries above driving age, surf the rock section. Back for another instalment of anthemnic radio tunes, **Bruce Springsteen** issued his 16th album Working On A Dream (Columbia), garnering a Number One slot on sales charts. Similarly, Irish rockers **U2** had their own chart-topper with 12th effort No Line On The Horizon (Interscope) and former grunge boys **Pearl Jam**'s ninth Backspacer (Monkeywrench) hit the mark as well.

Holding up the independent world, alt-country crooner **Neko Case**'s Middle Cyclone (Anti/Epitaph) simply rocked reviewers and public alike, whereas brash garage rock revivalists **The Black Lips** scored with 200 Million Thousand (Vice).

### Extreme

As for metal, did **Metallica**'s Death Magnetic (Elektra) reign supreme? Not exactly. It sold well, but in terms of value, rivals **Megadeth** out-metal their colleagues with Endgame (Roadrunner). Still, they're both no match for thrash metal giants **Slayer** and ravenous, could-scare-the-heck-out-of-Stephen-King affair World Painted Blood (American). Back home, Toronto-based outfit **Sacrifice** returned from a 15-year silence to woo headbangers universally with their newest The Ones I Condemn (Sonic Unyon).

A heartbeat away from metal, punk was just as active this year. There were a plethora of great records, but Winnipeg's political activists **Propagandhi** particularly nailed us to the wall on Supporting Caste (G7 Welcoming Committee), a rousing blast of expedient music with intelligent messages. On the lighter end of the spectrum, renowned pop/punkers **Green Day** will bring smiles to the greenhorn/curious punk fans with their acclaimed rock opera 21st Century Breakdown (Reprise).

### Country

Is that special someone more line dance than head bang? No worries. Old country held its own this year: **Brooks & Dunn** (Cowboy Town, Arista Nashville), **Hank Williams Jr.** (127 Rose Avenue, Curb), **Rosanne Cash** (The List, Manhattan), **Randy Travis** (Around The Bend, Warner), **Reba McEntire** (Keep On Loving You, Starstruck) and **George Strait** (Twang, MCA Nashville) all released albums worthy of their legacies/kept up with the new country heroes who won't be mentioned here.




Bring your loved ones some audio Christmas cheer.

### Box sets

Something a little more glamorous is necessary? Fear not. 2009 has some of the greatest repackaging in history.

Rockers will flip their wig (pun hopefully not intended) at Aussie mainstays **AC/DC**'s Backtracks (Columbia), a collection of album and live rarities spanning their 35-year career, housed in an amplifier-shaped case and boasting too many bonuses to comprehend.

Not to be outdone, **The Beatles** have their own collection for the discerning music fan this year. Stereo Box Set (Apple/EMI) finds the Fab Four in, well, stereo.

Each of their 15 studio albums has been digitally re-mastered/packaged with album art, liner notes, rare photographs and short documentary films.




Rockers will flip at AC/DC's collection Backtracks

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# The year's best in beauty gifts

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

**Smoother hair, stronger and longer lashes, brighter eyes, better skin — it's been a good beauty year.**

Here's what's tops in 2009.

That what you consume can boost your beauty is a given, but busy lives and stress interfere with our good-eat intentions. **Genuine Health Healthy Skin Chocolate Soft Chews** ($24.99/45 pieces) and **GliSODin Skin Nutrients Advanced Daily Formula supplements** ($95/60 capsules) each significantly improves skin with nutrient-rich natural ingredients. For retailers, go to genuinehealth.com and glisodinskin.com.

The eco-responsible, silicone-free **Live Clean Exotic Nectar Moroccan Collection** strengthens hair and ramps up shine with argan oil and certified-organic olive and grapeseed oils. From $6.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart.




Also making silicone-free waves in fuzz-free hair care and styling, the key **Living Proof No Frizz** ingredient, PolyfluoroEster, improves hair's own frizz resistance, and repels surface water, oils and dirt so you shampoo less often. Formulas target fine-to-medium hair, medium-to-thick hair and thick-to-coarse hair. Available for $26 each at Sephora.

Another anti-frizz helping hand, the nubby microfibre **Hand Dry Hair Glove** sucks up moisture right quick to help shape smooth curls and waves sans blowdryer. Available for $22.95 per pair at delineation.ca.

The cleverly woven **Upper Canada Ultimate Body Sponge** shower puff has a loofah-style side to buff away dry skin. Available for $5 at tweedandhickory.com.

**Dove Deep Moisture Nourishing Bodywash** takes steps toward more natural beauty care with moisturizing ingredients such as natural stearic acid, soybean oil and glycerin. Available for $6.99 (354 mL) at drug stores.

**Kiehl's Açai Damage-Repairing Skincare**, the company's first 100 per cent natural-origin line, use the super-antioxidant organic açai berry to improve all aspects of the complexion. Available for $35 to $65 at Kiehl's boutiques; log on to kiehls.com for other retailers.




**Lancôme Génifique Youth Activator Serum** rewinds to less aged times by stimulating production of specific "youth proteins" to rejuvenate skin. Available for $92 at drug and department stores.

Sensitive types get another wrinkle-fighting option — and a Canadian one, too — in **Cliniderm Anti-Wrinkle Cream**, which uses non-irritating peptide technology to reverse signs of aging. Available for $50 at drug stores.

**Physicians Formula** continues to blaze the mass green trail with gentle and effective as well as biodegradeable **Organic Wear 100% Natural Origin Facial Makeup Remover Towelettes**. Available for $13.99 at Shoppers Drug Mart.

Oil-free cream-to-powder **Smashbox Camera Ready Full Coverage Foundation** contains silica beads to deliver a smooth, semi-matte finish that doesn't look heavy, and won't do the winter freeze-and-melt on your face. Available for $44 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Sephora.




Deep, dark under-eye circles have a new hide-'em hero with **Conceal FX Camouflage Concealer**, which has a little orange in the mix to temper shadows without looking ashy. Available for $27 at Shoppers Drug Mart and Sephora.

One of the biggest Google questions is, "What's the best make-up for my eye colour?" In answer, **L'Oréal Paris Wear Infinité Made for Me Naturals Eye Shadow Quads** ($10.95 each) and **CoverGirl Exact Eye Enhancers Shadows** ($6.99) join Almay and Physicians Formula with accessible and affordable palettes to spotlight your natural hue. Both are available at drug and mass retailers.




**Joe Fresh Beauty** may well be the most successful marriage of sophistication and affordability beauty junkies have seen so far. From $4; go to joe.ca for locations.

The luxuriously emollient **Yves Saint Laurent Gloss Volupté Sheer Sensual Gloss Stick** is the year's Most Covetable for beauty-addicts everywhere. Available for $35 at Holt Renfrew and The Bay flagship stores.

Accessible, eco-minded fragrance — how sweet the smell. Try these: **Roots Source Bamboo** or **Red Tea eau de parfum**, both formulated with corn-based alcohol ($35 for 30 mL at Roots stores); **Nautica Oceans** — it's for him — is biodegradeable and water-based ($57 for 50 mL at department stores); and **The Body Shop Love Etc.** is made with community-trade alcohol from organic sugar cane ($24 for 30 mL).

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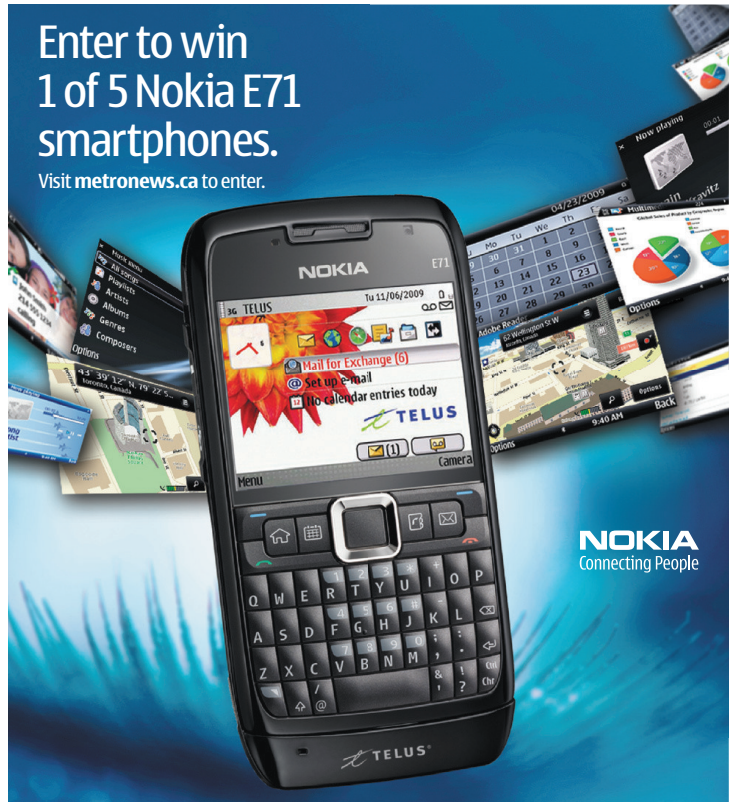


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This Solar Car, $34.99, zips around like a regular radio-controlled car but it's solar-powered. Available at Sears, sears.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Holiday Shopping Guide

# Easy gift ideas for fussy foodies

**Stymied by what to get the fussy foodie in your life?**

Take this bit of advice — we all have more than enough aprons (kitschy, frilly, manly, profane and otherwise) that we don't wear; bottles of decorative vinegars consume valuable kitchen real estate and are so '90s; and with only two hands we can use only so many pot holders.

If you want to please a picky cook, look for gifts that solve problems and make work easier, or at least make it easier to love the work. Here are some suggestions that may make this year's holiday gift hunt a little less stressed.

### HOST GIFT

When headed to someone's house for dinner, anyone can bring a bottle of wine or bouquet of flowers. To make an impression, head to the grocer and get a stalk of brussels sprouts, instead. A stalk of sprouts (usually 60 to 90 inches) has a rustic beauty and is easily dressed up with a ribbon or a wrap of tissue paper. The stalks are in season, cost just a few dollars and your host gets to eat the sprouts the next day.

Sprouts not your thing? Form a large cone out of butcher's paper or heavy-duty wrapping paper. Fold and tape the bottom of the cone, then fill it with pecans and walnuts (in the shell). Top the nuts with a wedge of Parmesan cheese and a nut cracker.

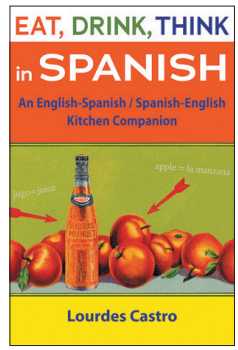
### STOCKING STUFFERS



For the foodie with a techie bent (and an iPhone or iTouch), consider getting an **iTunes gift card.** Sure, they can download some tunes to jam to while whipping up dinner, but there also are numerous apps that make cooking easier and more fun.

Spend some time searching iTunes and assemble a list of suggestions for your recipient. There are food and wine pairing apps, and recipe and grocery list options galore.

Hispanic food is where it's at, but if you don't speak the language, venturing beyond chain restaurant offerings can be intimidating. Which makes Lourdes Castro's new pocket-style dictionary, **Eat, Drink, Think in Spanish** (Ten Speed Press) so helpful. Like most translation dictionaries, Castro's is divided into English-Spanish and Spanish-English sections. It will have your foodie navigating markets with ease.




### UTILITY OVER BEAUTY

Like measuring cups and wooden spoons, no kitchen can have enough towels. Skip the decorative ones found at most homes stores; they are pricey and not all that absorbent. Go for so-called flour sack towels, the variety used in many professional kitchens.

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# Careful with those holiday treats near your pets

**In a snapshot of a home decked out for a holiday celebration, trimmed trees adorned with lights and tables laden with treats are typically part of the scene.**




But while festive decor and tantalizing edibles offers an undeniable feast for the senses, they may also serve as potential hazards to those of the four-legged variety.

Dr. Julie de Moissac, president of the Canadian Veterinary Medical Association, says a number of seasonal staples would be better kept away from the paws of pets as they could lead to possible illness — or worse.

Among them are table scraps, like chicken, turkey, bones and gravy, said the mixed animal practitioner.

"Often times, pet owners are really good about not doing that, but it's the relatives that come over and they see the poor dog and they think they're doing it a big favour by giving it little tidbits from the table," she said from Outlook, Sask. "Often times, the''re too fatty for dogs and they cause stomach upset at best, or bone issues in the digestive tract would be the worst."



Holiday treats could cause potential harm to your pets.

Chocolate can also be quite toxic to animals, she noted.

"That seems to be in abundance over the holidays and dogs love it and they will eat it if they have the opportunity, so you have to be quite careful."

Xylitol, a low-calorie artificial sweetener found in some baked goods, can lead to liver injury or sometimes liver failure, she said.

The CVMA also recommends keeping alcohol and bottles out of reach. Vomiting, wobbly gait, depression, disorientation and/or hypothermia are all signs of intoxication in pets.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

**Dress him up**
Stainless steel cufflinks, $19, at Walmart. For more, go to walmart.ca. METRO NEWS SERVICES





# Soft & cuddly



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**What Christmas is all About Linus doll,** $12.95. Press his foot and he says lines from A Charlie Brown Christmas. Available at Hallmark, hallmark.ca.

**In the Night Garden talking plush dolls,** $19.99 each. There's Igglepiggle, Makka Pakka, (not shown), and Upsy Daisy (not shown). Available at Walmart, Zellers and Toys R Us.




**Eco Pals,** $19.99 each. These plush toys are made from all organic or recycled materials. Available at Canadian Tire, canadiantire.ca.



**Plush animals,** $12 each at Bath & Body Works stores across Canada. For more, go to bathand body works .com.




**Farmyard Skittles,** $29 at shopunicef.ca.

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## Holiday Shopping Guide

# Holiday hardware



**Dewalt XRP V 18v cordless hammer drill,** $379, also has an LED worklight. Available at Home Depot (homedepot.ca) and Kent Building Supplies (kent.ca).



**Stanley 684-piece household kit,** $12.97, includes nails, screws, thumbtacks, and more. Available at Walmart (walmart.ca). For more, go to stanleyhardware.com.



**Stanley 149-piece black chrome mechanics set,** $119, at Canadian Tire (canadiantire.ca). For more, go to stanleyhardware.com.



**Rigid 10" granite table top saw,** $899, features a granite stone top. Available at Home Depot (homedepot.ca).



**Dewalt 18" pro contractor's closed-top tool bag,** $49.99, features 14 interior pockets to ensure that every nut and bolt has a spot. Available at Home Depot (homedepot.ca).

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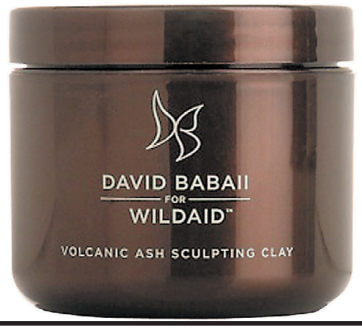
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# Grooming gifts for him




JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

**Guys, don't even try to pretend you wouldn't appreciate quality grooming products as a gift — at least it would save you shopping for yourself.**

Here's a round-up of great-hair and great-skin stuff to put on your holiday wish list. You know you want it.




Get your morning tingle here: **L'Oréal Professionnel Homme Energic Ice Mint + Ginseng Shampoo.** Wakey, wakey! Available for $14.50; go to lorealprofessionnel.ca for salons.

We know you love a multi-tasker: **Fruits & Passion F/P Homme 003 Shower Gel Hair and Body** is a hair-to-toes deal. Available for $15 at Fruits & Passion boutiques.

The **Gillette Scrubber** is a manly shower puff so you can get your scrub on. Available for $4.99 at drugstores.




For revved-up dry-skin sloughing, try the **Dermalogica Ultimate Buffing Cloth** with shower gel, then lotion up — no joke — within three minutes of towelling off. Available for $24; go to dermalogica.ca for retailers.

**Consonant Body Pure Unscented Organic Foaming Face Wash** and **Body Lotion** might answer your skin's call. Available for $18 and $22 at The Bay, select Sears stores, and consonantbody.com.

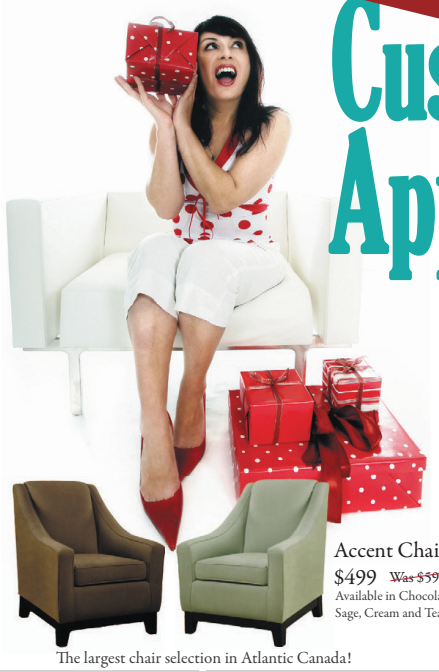
**Oxy Acne Fighting Face Formula Face Wash** is part of a whole facial grooming line that helps put the kybosh on breakouts. Available for $11 at drug stores.

The Art of Shaving and Gillette teamed up to produce the high-end **Fusion Chrome Collection Power Razor**, with micro-pulse action for better glide and a spotlight to show up those hard-to-see spots. Available for $150 at Harry Rosen and Holt Renfrew.



Good for your hair and environmentally responsible: **David Babaii for Wildaid Volcanic Ash Sculpting Clay**, $13 at Sears or DB4Wildaid. com.


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**Some hints for first-time holiday dinner hosts**

Remember to honour important or fun family traditions; If you want to do something new, introduce it along with the more traditional aspects. If you are cooking, stick to the tried and true. Don't choose this time to try out a new recipe. SYLVIA PUTZ/FOR METRO CANADA

# Metro Homes

## Dinner decor

**Only decorate your home for your Christmas dinner in a few key places. To minimize work, stick to visible areas, like the mantel above the fireplace, stair railings, and the Christmas tree.** —SYLVIA PUTZ

EDITOR: DOUGLAS.DUNLOP@METRONEWS.CA

# A decade of changing decor

## Homes go practical and casual in 2000s

**Goodbye to the armoire and the dining room (in many cases, the living room, too). Hello to the home office.**

Repurposed rooms, recycled materials and an increasingly relaxed decorating style characterize the end of a decade that began as a party on a grand scale.

These are among the home decor trends cited by experts as the 2000s draws to a close.

Over the past 10 years, the formal living room in most homes has been reinvented — it's now a library, workspace, perhaps a music or game room.

The most well-liked rooms now are the home office, mud room and media room, the survey indicated. What we don't want so much anymore? Three-car garages, guest rooms and formal living rooms.

Some trends over the past 10 years:



Seen here are some of the trends that came and went (or stayed) this decade.

### Living large

At the start of the 2000s, many jumped on the real estate thrill ride. McMansions, gobblers of space and energy dollars, became ubiquitous. Now, we're rethinking how we live, says Jennifer Boles, founder of The Peak of Chic design blog and contributing editor to House Beautiful. Oversize furniture like sectionals and big coffee tables, popular at the start of the decade, are scaled down.

However, one oversize space remains popular: "The spa bathroom is the new two-car garage — a must-have if you ever want to sell your home," says Homegoods' Philip Tracey.

### Living al fresco

"The outdoor room's really been one of the biggest changes. Everyone has an outdoor space now," says Elle Decor's Cheminne Taylor-Smith. "With seating, dining, even kitchens and sleeping pieces, these rooms are treated like their indoor counterparts."

### Living green

After a long fallow period, gardening took off in the past few years. From containers to victory gardens, we've got our hands back in the dirt. We're concerned about the provenance of produce, and about our carbon footprint. We're putting down less pesticide. More of us are composting.

### Living relaxed

We've loosened up. It's OK to have the computer and TV in the heart of the home. There's been a shift toward a more practical, casual lifestyle. As designer Mark Hampton says, "Real comfort, visual and physical, is vital to every room."

Suites of furniture? Passe. Untouchable formal rooms? Over. We're comfortable mixing and matching

THE CANADIAN PRESS




## Put money into efficency, receive refunds

LegalMatters



Elias Metlej

metronews.ca/legalmatters

As world leaders meet in Copenhagen for the UN Climate Change Conference, we should all be seeking ways to minimize our carbon footprint. As the realities of climate change become more apparent, efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and energy use do not only start at home but also with our homes.

According to the Canada Mortgage and Housing Corporation, more than 17 per cent of the energy consumed in Canada is used to run our homes.

While modern and efficient homes may cost more, CMHC has programs to help with such purchase transactions. There are also rebates available for those who renovate to improve the efficiency of older homes.

CMHC recently introduced environmentally friendly incentives for the mortgage loan insurance it offers. Those who use CMHC insured financing to purchase an energy efficient home, or complete renovations to improve energy efficiency, may qualify for a 10-per-cent refund on the Mortgage Loan Insurance premium.

To qualify for the incentive, you must first obtain an energy assessment from a qualified energy advisor through Natural Resources Canada (NRCan). The next step involves increasing the energy efficiency and improving the rating. Following the energy-saving renovations, the energy advisor will reassess the home to calculate the extent of the improvements. The refund may be available if the home's energy rating improves by the requisite amount.

Even simple upgrades, like installing better insulation or re-caulking around windows, can effectively reduce energy consumption.

Elias Metlej is a real estate lawyer with the Halifax firm Blois Nickerson & Bryson. You can write to Elias at askelias@yahoo.com



**Esprit's celebrity campaign**
Esprit's spring/summer 2010 campaign will feature Daisy Lowe, daughter of vocalist Pearl Lowe and Bush front man Gavin Rossdale. METRO NEWS SERVICE

# Style

EDITOR: ANN-MARIE.COLACINO@METRONEWS.CA

# A *blue* 2010

## Turquoise is next year's hot shade: Pantone

**If colour is any guide, we'll be moving into vacation mode in 2010 with the world awash in tropical turquoise, forecasters say.**

Turquoise was selected as the colour of 2010 by Pantone, a company that supplies and tracks colour for fashion and home decor, among other industries. Fashion insiders agreed the colour is on the rise.

"Turquoise is universally appealing. It puts everyone in the same state of mind — on vacation," says Jane Schoenborn, design director at Lilly Pulitzer. "Turquoise for us is a really big colour. A lot of times it's transporting, whether you're actually going to a resort destination or not."

Leatrice Eiseman, executive director of the Pantone Color Institute, says there was no runner-up to turquoise in her mind because people crave escapism and freshness after a tough year. The shade is on the cusp of blue and green, which makes it both inviting and serene — characteristics associated with blues — and invigorating and luminous, which comes from green, she says.

"Transporting" was a word many used for turquoise, a shade that takes designer Tommy Hilfiger to the beach, especially the Caribbean, St. Tropez, France, or Southern California, which served as the inspiration for his newest collection. In jewelry, he thinks of the American Southwest, or Central or South America.

"The women in my life wear it on vacation and it looks great with a suntan at the beach," Hilfiger says.

Pantone's colour for 2009 was mimosa yellow, intended to carry a hopeful, optimistic message. Eiseman says the public is shifting gears as the economy shows some improvement: They are ready to fantasize a bit about the beach resort.

She also notes that in many cultures turquoise is considered a protective colour with people wearing the blue-stone jewelry almost as a talisman. "You often hear it attached to words like 'healing.'"

But Hilfiger urges a little caution in wearing it. "I love it for women and I strongly dislike it for men. ... If men are to wear blue, they should wear light blue or dark blue."

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS







Springtime cruise bracelet ($50) and necklace ($65). Available at Banana Republic.

Jacquard sparkle pashmina ($22). Le Chateau stores.

### Turquoise tip

- Textile quality is an issue with turquoise, says designer Tommy Hilfiger. It can be very luxe looking in the right fabric, but it risks looking cheap in a bad one.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



RIGHT: Striped shirt ($33.99). Available at talbots.com.



**Wedding gown trends**
At the most recent round of wedding fashion previews, insiders say there might have been a little less beading and fewer exotic trims to keep costs down, but there wasn't an industry-wide movement toward gowns on the cheap. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

# Success is in the jeans

## Canadian denim a hit with women of all sizes


DARYL BANKS

Canadian company Second Denim Co., the brand behind the increasingly popular Yoga Jean styles, is expected to double its production of the anti-sag, designer denim in 2010.

JANINE FALCON
for Metro Canada

**Eric Wazana is very happy. So is the growing number of Canadian women of all ages and sizes who are getting into his pants.**

Wazana is the owner and designer of Second Denim Co. (secondclothing.com), the Montreal-based Canadian company behind Yoga Jeans, which have been met with impressive national success since a PR push in February. In August, the company doubled its production facilities and is looking to double in size yet again in the new year to handle the steadily increasing demand.

The fabric is a key to the Yoga Jean success. Its three per cent elastane stretch makes the no-sag denim feel like leggings, but the flattering fits, cuts and range of high-fashion washes are all designer jean.

Michelle Germain, owner of Toronto boutique Shopgirls says that since stocking her shelves just nine months ago, she's sold about 1,500 pairs (she now also sells them online). "Women love them. The fabric holds everything in and smooths it all out comfortably whether you're carrying some extra weight or just had a baby," she explains.

At Germain's behest, there's also a high-rise version with a waistband just one inch higher than the original for customers who want to prevent a "muffin-top" bulge.

Second Denim and Shopgirls partnered to launch "Feel Good, Real Good," a new online and in-store re-branding campaign featuring average-size women. "We've seen over and over the reactions our customers have to the fit and feel of Yoga Jeans," says Germain. "They appeal to women of all shapes, sizes, and ages from 16 to 75 who want to be comfortable but feel sexy, too." (Advice: turn the monitor volume down a bit to watch the youtube.com/yogajeans video.)

**"(Yoga Jeans) appeal to women of all shapes, sizes, and ages from 16 to 75 who want to be comfortable but feel sexy, too."**
Michelle Germain, owner of Shopgirls

Brand new are plus-size skinny Yoga Jeans in sizes 14 to 24 (about $130), which just hit select Addition-Elle stores across Canada. "When they heard about the brand, Addition-Elle approached us to create a boot-cut for their customer; it's been in stores about a year," says Wazana. "The skinny fit answers the demand for jeans that plus women can tuck into their boots."

The size diversity also answers a creative need for the designer, who says he likes approaching his work from new angles. "Women are sick of feeling like they have to be perfect to be beautiful," Wazana adds. "I appreciate the opportunity to create plus versions of our Yoga Jeans. I've always thought the plus market has been overlooked by many designers."

This Holiday Season, think outside the big box... think
spring garden
Always in season.
www.springgardenroad.com

# Runway display shows eco-friendly can be stylish too

**CLOTHING** Forget the animal-unfriendly fur coat and the painted-on pants made from polluting petroleum-based products. A runway show in Copenhagen last week aimed to show that "green styles" — some of them stitched in fabrics made from recycled agricultural or industrial waste — can be just as fashionable.

Held at Copenhagen's Opera House — across the Danish capital from where delegates from 192 countries are gathered to hammer out an agreement aimed at stemming global warning — the display brought together 20 designers from five Nordic countries and representatives of such retailing heavyweights as H&M and Barneys.

Designers each presented two looks made from organic cottons and silks, polyesters made from recycled plastic bottles or new fabrics made from waste left over from industry and agriculture.

Never heard of Crabion? It's made from byproducts from the crab industry. And Ingeo? It's made out of corn scraps and can be made to mimic the smoothness of silk or the glossy sheen of PVC. Ditto, Milkfiber, which, you guessed it, is milled milk: from the powder left over from boiled milk, more precisely.

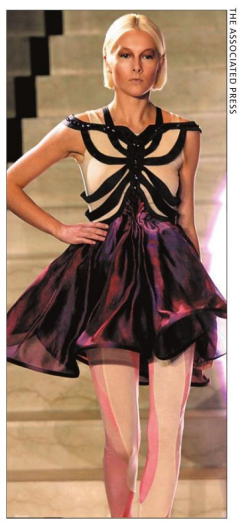
"It was an exercise to show that you can replace traditional textiles with innovative new ones that are being made in mills in Japan and Italy and that are less polluting," said Stine Hedegaard of the Danish Fashion Institute, the organizer of the display — which doubled as a design contest. A jury of fashion insiders judged the show's 40 looks and attributed a prize of 50,000 kroner ($6,720).

Finland's Saara Lepokorpi took the award for an asymmetrical cocktail dress in muted grey tones with what appeared to be panels of ruched silk, though organizer Hedegaard said Lepokorpi made her two looks from organic wool, Ingeo and Milkfiber.

"They were really nice materials to use and I intend to use them again," gushed Lepokorpi.

Other looks included an oversized, joker-collared wind-breaker in a green and black print that mimicked graffiti tags and a cocktail dress in iridescent purple with a strappy bodice that looked like the model was getting a bear hug from an octopus.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS


THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

A model wears sustainable produced fashion by Nordic fashion designers.

# SNAKE BITTEN STYLE

## Sexy without the venom


Alexander McQueen


Hypnosis earrings, Swarovski ($250, swarovski.com)


Snake charm, Thomas Sabo ($59, theomassabo.com)

Myth & Fantasy pavé snake ring, Daniel Espinosa Jewellery ($565, danielspinosa.com)

For more visit: ellecanada.com

**Gyllenhaal and Witherspoon could be done**
The rumours appear to be true. Jake Gyllenhaal and Reese Witherspoon are no longer together, according to Gossip Cop, a Web site dedicated to confirming or debunking tabloid tales. METRO WORLD NEWS

# Entertainment



**Wedding bells?**
Joshua Jackson is ready to settle down with long-term girlfriend Diane Kruger and can see himself marrying the German beauty. Jackson, 31, has been dating the Inglourious Basterds actress since 2006. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

EDITOR: DEAN.LISK@METRONEWS.CA

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 A CLASSIC; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 EXCELLENT; 🌐🌐🌐 GOOD; 🌐🌐 FAIR; 🌐 POOR

# Keys gets better

## Alicia Keys

**Album:** The Element of Freedom **Label:** J/Sony Music
**Rating:** 🌐🌐🌐🌐



**IF THERE'S ONE** musician other artists should envy it's Alicia Keys. She's easily one of the most talented artists around, and continues to improve with every record. Her latest is an intensely passionate record about broken hearts, loneliness and finding strength. It might be a bit preachy, but with solid songwriting — the soaring Love is Blind is one of her most infectious tunes yet — blaring pipes and top notch piano playing, she's still far ahead of her peers.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada




Alicia Keys sings about broken hearts, loneliness and finding strength on The Element of Freedom.

## Robin Thicke

**Album:** Sex Therapy: The Session **Label:** Universal
**Rating:** 🌐🌐½



**UNTIL NOW, ROBIN** Thicke has managed to create some of the most inoffensive, yet still welcoming R&B sounds. His music was always nice, something you could play in front of your parents. His latest however, is all about doin' it. That would be all well and good if the music was as reliable as his past efforts. Songs like Make U Love Me, a stripped down, electro-tinged club track with the line "Mr. Big is in your hands" is nauseating, while It's The Mornin' or rather "sex in the morning" as he sings, is too R. Kelly for its own good.

Bryan Borzykowski/for Metro Canada

## Timbaland

**Album:** Shock Value II
**Label:** Interscope/Universal
**Rating:** 🌐🌐🌐



**THE TIMBALAND SOUND** has dominated pop music for the past five years. Now, frankly, we're getting a bit tired of it. Tim sticks to the same formula of synthetic clapbeats backing occasional flights of melody and autotone-tainted vocals from a revolving cast of A-list pop stars. Justin Timberlake and Nelly Furtado are back, sounding pretty much like all the other Timbaland stuff they've done, except without the hit potential. New dalliances with Katy Perry and Miley Cyrus would be forgettable if there was anything worth remembering about them. The interesting tracks here are the ones backed by Timbaland's little brother, rapper Sebastian, and Canadian singer Esthero. Still, it's hard to imagine this Timbaland sound continuing into the next decade without radical revision.

Graham Rockingham/for Metro Canada

**Album Reviews**
music@metronews.ca

# Hetfield donates land for preservation

**PEOPLE** Metallica frontman James Hetfield is donating 135 hectares of land near his home for preservation as farmland.

The Marin County Board of Supervisors unanimously accepted the donation Tuesday. It follows Hetfield's earlier gift of more than 160 hectares.

Hetfield's consultant, Scott Hochstrasser, says the donations reflect the singer's desire to maintain privacy and preserve open space. Meanwhile, county officials say they are close to a deal that would reroute a hiking trail that crosses Hetfield's property. The project is expected to cost the county more than $200,000 US.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS








**Not a hobbit**

Tobey Maguire is not appearing in The Hobbit. The actor has dispelled rumours he has signed up to play Bilbo Baggins in the upcoming movie adaptation of the prequel to the Lord of the Rings trilogy. FEMALEFIRST.CO.UK

# Aliens from another planet

## Weaver explores a very different role in Avatar from Aliens

NED EHRBAR
Metro World News

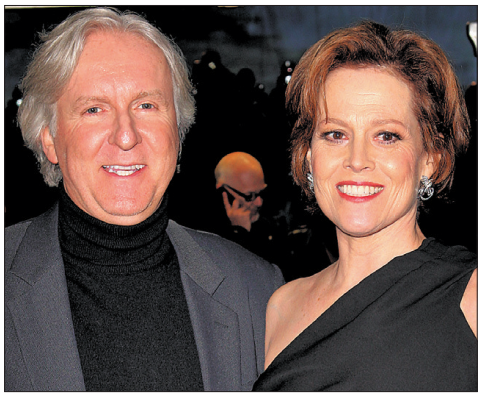
**Sigourney Weaver admits her role as Dr. Grace Augustine in James Cameron's long-awaited movie Avatar was something new for her.**

"It was wonderful to play someone who ends up finding her true happiness and her true home in an alien life, especially after my history with aliens," the veteran actress says with a laugh.

Weaver's Dr. Augustine serves as part of a team of humans studying the Na'vi, an indigenous people on an alien planet whose home just happens to rest over a mother lode of minerals earth needs to fix its energy crisis.

And Weaver relished the chance to play a professional woman as complex as Grace.

"Grace was a wonderful combination of qualities. She's full of authority and wit, but she's also a very conflicted person," Weaver explains.



Director James Cameron and actress Sigourney Weaver arrive at the premiere of the film Avatar

"I admire women who've devoted themselves to the study of certain things or certain causes."

Teaming up again with Cameron, who helped cement Weaver's status as a science-fiction icon in Aliens, was a simple decision to make.

"There are a lot of big movies that involve special effects," she says.

"Jim Cameron is the only one I know who understands that special effects are not for effect.

"He uses them to enhance the emotional story and to make even sharper — in this case through 3-D — the sensory experience of the audience experiencing the story."

Given the environmental thrust of the story in Avatar, Weaver admits there could have been a better place to premiere it other than London — such as the U.N. Climate Change Conference happening at the same time in Denmark.

"I'm sorry that we didn't show this at the kick-off of Copenhagen," Weaver says, though she thinks a younger audience will have greater effect.

"You know what I think is going to work? A lot of families will see this movie, and they'll talk about the message. "I think children will hold us to this because they know this is the world they're inheriting. I'm cautiously optimistic."

**Avatar opens in theatres tomorrow**

# YouTube's top hits of the year

**ONLINE** The eclectic cast of characters starring in YouTube's most-watched videos of 2009 served as a reminder of the quirky appeal of a website that accepts about 20 hours of new video every minute.

YouTube's 2009 star was Susan Boyle, the frumpy Scottish woman who mesmerized the world with a heartwarming rendition of I Dreamed A Dream on Britain's Got Talent, attracting more than 120 million views worldwide.

The second spot, with more than 37 million views, was held by David After Dentist, which featured a seven-year-old boy recovering from some dental work that left him feeling disorientated and wondering if he would ever feel normal again..

Third place went to JK Wedding Entrance Dance, which captured an elaborate routine orchestrated by Jill Peterson and Kevin Heinz just before their July marriage.

It attracted more than 33 million views and turned into a prime example of YouTube's moneymaking potential after Sony claimed its rights to a Chris Brown song, Forever, that provided the dance's soundtrack. A link placed by the video helped drive more sales of the song.



Susan Boyle

Commercials rounded out YouTube's top five videos for the year. A movie trailer for The Twilight Saga: New Moon attracted 31 million views.

Evian water soaked up 27 million views clips featuring diaper-wearing babies performing roller-skating stunts.

YouTube compiled a separate list of the year's most popular studio-produced music videos. Rapper Pitbull's I Know You Want Me was the category's top draw with more than 82 million views. Michael Jackson's Beat It logged more than 25 million views.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

| HA | H | D | B | 7:00 | 7:30 | 8:00 | 8:30 | 9:00 | 9:30 | 10:00 | 10:30 | 11:00 |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 12/17/09 | 31 | 31 | 31 ABC | News Center 5 | ABC Wld News | Inside Edition | Chronicle | Grey's Anatomy (HDTV) | | Grey's Anatomy (HDTV) | | Practice |
| | 7 | 7 | 7 ASN | The Road to Avonlea | | Degrassi: TNG | TMZ (N) | Grey's Anatomy (HDTV) | | Fringe (HDTV) | | Atlantis |
| | 11 | 11 | 11 CBC | Wheel Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | *Miracle on 34th Street* ★★★ (1994, Fantasy) | | | | CBC News: The National | | The Hour |
| | 2 | 2 | 2 CBC-F | Pyramide (SC) | Union-force | Comme par magie (SC) | | Les Années Derome (N) (SC) | | 3600 secondes d'extase (SC) | | Le Téléjournal |
| | 32 | 32 | 32 CBS | WBZ News (N) | Evening News | Wheel Fortune | Jeopardy! (N) | Survivor: Samoa (N) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n | | The Mentalist |
| | 69 | 69 | 69 CFTM | TVA nouvelles | Le Cercle (SC) | Clodine | | *Table pour trois* ★★ (2007, Drame) Catherine Zeta-Jones. | | | | TVA nouvelles |
| | 6 | 6 | 6 CIHF | Entertainment | ET Canada | 90210 | | Survivor: Samoa (N) | | Family Guy | Family Guy | News Final (N) |
| | 9 | 9 | 9 CJCH | etalk | Access H. | The Mentalist (HDTV) (N) | | Criminal Minds (N) | | CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n | | CTV News |
| | 10 | 10 | 10 ELTV | (6) EastLink Television | | | | Podium TV | | Community Matters | | |
| | 36 | 36 | 36 FOX | Seinfeld | The Simpsons | Two/Half Men | Two/Half Men | Bones (HDTV PA) | | Fringe (HDTV) | | Fox First |
| | 12 | 12 | 12 NBC | News (N) | NBC News | Access H. | Extra (N) | Saturday Night Live Presents: A Very Gilly Christmas | | | | Jay Leno Show |
| | 29 | 29 | 29 NW | (6) Power & Politics | | Connect Today's biggest stories. (N) | | | | CBC News: The National | | Nature-Things |
| | 4 | 4 | 4 PBS-B | PBS NewsHour (N) | | Greater Boston | Basic Black | Peter and Paul-Christian | | Peter and Paul-Christian | | Anatomy-Pand |
| | 35 | 35 | 35 PBS-D | PBS NewsHour (N) | | Business Rpt. | Worldfocus | Celtic Woman: Songs From the Heart Music. | | | | As Time Goes |
| | 68 | 68 | 68 TQS | Guerre clans | Le Mur (SC) | Smile TV (N) | Criss Angel | *De retour pour Noël* (2006, Drame) Linda Hamilton. (N) | | | | Guerre clans |
| news | 23 | 96 | 96 BNN | Business News | Headline | Market Call Tonight | | GetConnected | Market Call | Squeeze Play | | Business News |
| | 18 | 18 | 18 CNN | Situation Room-Wolf Blitzer | | CNN Tonight (N) | | Campbell Brown (N) | | Larry King Live (N) | | Cooper 360 |
| sports | 54 | 54 | 54 GOLF | Golf Central | Tour Clinic | Masters Highlights (HDTV) | | Haney Project | Haney Project | Haney Project | Haney Project | Masters |
| | 52 | 52 | 52 RSE | Connected W-Prime Time | | MMA Conn | Sportsnet Con. | NFL Football Indianapolis Colts at Jacksonville Jaguars. (HDTV) (Live) | | | | |
| | 55 | 55 | 55 SCOR | HSR | Covers Experts | Score on NFL | Score Today | FullTiltPoker.net Million | | Poker Asian Pacific Tour. | | Score Now |
| | 45 | 45 | 45 SPD | Unique Whips | | Pass Time | Pass Time | Pinks -- All Out (HDTV) | | Pinks Outtakes | Jacked! | Wrecked |
| | 53 | 53 | 53 TSN | Off the Record | SportsCentre | NHL Hockey Minnesota Wild at Montreal Canadiens. (HDTV) (Live) | | | | | NHL Hockey: Kings at Flames | |
| family | 43 | 43 | 43 FAM | Han. Montana | Wizards-Place | Sonny Chance | Zack & Cody | Overruled! | Han. Montana | Wizards-Place | Latest Buzz | Ned's School |
| | 44 | 44 | 44 TOON | Jimmy Two | Little Spirit: Christmas | | *Bah, Humduck! Looney Tunes* | | 6TEEN | Futurama | King of the Hill | *V for Vendetta* |
| | 26 | 26 | 26 TREE | Caillou Holiday Movie | | | Night Garden | Waybuloo | Christopher | Little Bear | Lost in Snow | Babar |
| | 27 | 27 | 27 YTV | CatDog | The Legend of Frosty the Snowman | | | Hates Chris | 8 Simple Rules | 8 Simple Rules | What I Like | Family Biz |
| cable variety | 16 | 16 | 16 A&E | The First 48 (HDTV) | | Criminal Minds (HDTV) | | The First 48 (HDTV) | | The First 48 (HDTV) | | The First 48 |
| | 70 | 70 | 70 APTN | APTN National News (N) | | Wapos Bay | By the Rapids | Big Bear | Moose TV | *Big Spender* (2003, Drama) Casper Van Dien. | | |
| | 50 | 50 | 50 BET | 106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live Top 10 countdown. (Live) | | | | Monica: Still | Monica: Still | *Bait* ★ (2000, Action) Jamie Foxx. | | |
| | 37 | 37 | 37 BRVO | Wind at My Back | | Storytellers | PhotoXplorers | Bathroom Divas-Opera Star | | *A Winter Tale* (2007, Drama) Peter Bailey. | | |
| | 25 | 25 | 25 CMT | Christmas in Whistler | | Amer. Funniest Home Videos | | Carrie Underwood: An All-Star Holiday Special (N) | | | | Home Improve. |
| | 49 | 49 | 49 COM | Just for Laughs | | Air Farce | 22 Minutes | Corner Gas | Name Is Earl | The Simpsons | South Park | Hot Box |
| | 153 | 153 | 153 COURT | Truth, Duty, Valour | | True Crime | | Cops Uncut | Dumb Criminal | Psychic Detect | Homicide File | True Crime |
| | 38 | 38 | 38 DISC | How It's Made | How It's Made | Daily Planet (N) | | Crashes That Changed Flying | | Crashes That Changed Flying | | MythBusters |
| | 34 | 48 | 48 HGTV | Extreme Makeover: Home | | House Hunters | Property Virgin | Holmes Inspection | | Renovation | Renovation | House Hunters |
| | 46 | 46 | 46 HIST | Underworld Histories | | Ice Road Truckers | | Ancient Discoveries | | Underworld Histories | | After People |
| | 17 | 17 | 17 MM | Make It or Break It | | Degrassi: TNG | Degrassi: TNG | The Vampire Diaries | | The Vampire Diaries | | Love Court |
| | 19 | 19 | 19 MMM | mmtop10.ca | | The Daily Fix | | Ranked! | | The Beatles on Record | | Entourage |
| | 201 | 201 | 201 M1 | (6:30) *Baby on Board* | | (8:10) *88 Minutes* ★ (2007, Suspense) Al Pacino. | | | | *A Crime* ★★★ (2006, Suspense) | | |
| | 48 | 23 | 23 OLN | Mantracker | | Ghost Hunters | | Bounty Hunter | Bounty Hunter | Survivorman | | Ghost Hunters |
| | 51 | 51 | 51 PEACH | The Office | Name Is Earl | Family Guy | Family Guy | House-Payne | House-Payne | Law & Order: SVU | | *Laws* |
| | 206 | 206 | 206 PIX | *Planes, Trains & Automobiles* | | *Blue* ★★ (1968, Western) Terence Stamp, Joanna Pettet. | | | | *Under Siege* ★★★ (1992, Action) | | |
| | 67 | 67 | 67 RDI | RDI monde | RDI économie | 24 Heures en 60 minutes | | Grands reportages (SC) | | Le Téléjournal (SC) | | RDI économie |
| | 39 | 39 | 39 SHOW | Trailer Park | Trailer Park | The Outer Limits | | Da Vinci's City Hall | | Found. | Paradise Falls | Bones |
| | 40 | 40 | 40 SLICE | Skin Deep | Skin Deep | Rich Bride, Poor Bride | | X-Weighted "Analisa" | | X-Weighted Dancer. | | X-Weighted |
| | 47 | 47 | 47 SPACE | Stargate SG-1 "Urgo" | | Stargate Atlantis (DVS) | | Star Trek: Voyager | | *Copperhead* (2008, Suspense) | | |
| | 14 | 14 | 14 SPIKE | CSI: Crime Scene Investigat'n | | UFC Fight Night (HDTV) | | | | TNA Wrestling (HDTV) (N) | | |
| | 57 | 98 | 98 STAR | etalk | TMZ (N) | Look-A-Like | TMZ | The Ellen DeGeneres Show (N) | | The View (HDTV) (N) | | Dr. Oz Show |
| | 21 | 21 | 21 TLC | Say Yes-Dress | Say Yes-Dress | BBQ Pitmasters (HDTV) | | American Chopper | | American Chopper (N) | | BBQ Pit |
| | 56 | 34 | 34 TROP | Bob & Doug | Bob & Doug | Seinfeld | Seinfeld | The Outer Limits | | ET Canada | TV Made, Do It | Family Guy |
| | 20 | 20 | 20 TV5 | Que.-champion | Journal de Fr2 | Hawaiki nui va'a | | Club social | | Envoyé spécial | | |
| | 28 | 28 | 28 V | Jozi-H (DVS) | | Murder, She Wrote | | On the Buses | 'Allo, 'Allo! | *The Nativity Story* ★★ (2006, Drama) | | |
| | 60 | 97 | 97 VIVA | Da Vinci's Inquest | | Cold Case | | Missing | | The Closer | | Cold Case |
| | 22 | 22 | 22 W | Maxed Out | Grocery Bag | *Crazy for Christmas* (2005, Drama) Andrea Roth. | | | | *Borrowed Hearts* (1997, Drama) Roma Downey. | | |
| | 251 | 251 | 251 WGN | WGN Evening News | | Two/Half Men | Family Guy | The Vampire Diaries | | The Vampire Diaries | | WGN News |

## critics'corner

**Grey's Anatomy**

Members of the hospital staff continue to explore unique ways to deal with their grief over George's death. Arizona (Jessica Capshaw) stoops to manipulation to diagnose her pain patient. Hunt's (Kevin McKidd) amputee patient sinks deep into depression in "Goodbye." Ellen Pompeo, Sandra Oh, Katherine Heigl, Justin Chambers and Chandra Wilson also star. 9 PM on ABC ASN

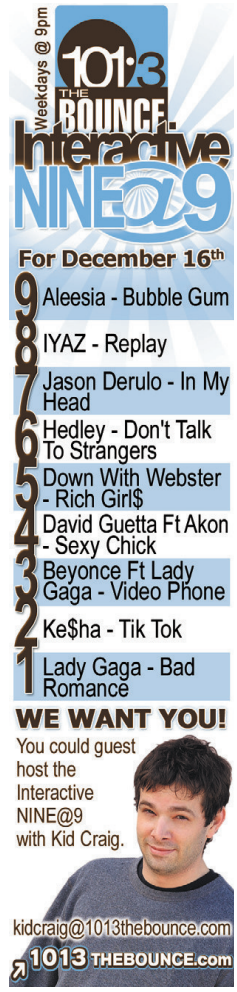


**Miracle on 34th Street**

The 1947 holiday classic gets a contemporary update, courtesy of writer-producer John Hughes (Home Alone). In this 1994 version, Richard Attenborough dons the red Santa suit, as department store executive Elizabeth Perkins finds her cynicism replaced by the Christmas spirit. 8 PM on CBC

**Saturday Night Live Christmas 2009**

But will they remember to include the Coneheads and the Loopners? This new two-hour yuletide special, culled from holiday-themed sketches over the show's past 35 years, presents the ones judged to deliver the biggest number of ho-ho-hos. Your mileage may vary, but some real gems are sure to make the cut. 9 PM on NBC



**Drink to 2010**
Mark Your Calendars! 2010 Nova Scotia Winter Icewine Festival Feb. 4 through 14. Enjoy icewine and wine tastings, food and wine pairing, gourmet dinners, ice sculptures and cooking classes throughout the province. Visit winesns.ca METRO NEWS SERVICES

## Urban Foodie

🌐🌐🌐🌐🌐 INSPIRED; 🌐🌐🌐🌐 VERY GOOD; 🌐🌐🌐 PALATABLE; 🌐🌐 HO-HUM; 🌐 NEVER AGAIN

# Go for beer, not menu

VALERIE MANSOUR
HalifaxFoodie@gmail.com

**Rockbottom Brewery**
**5686 Spring Garden Rd.**
**Halifax 423-2938**

**Signature Drink:** Provencal Mussels
**Signature Dish:** Specialty Beers
**Rating:** 🌐🌐
**Dinner & drinks for 2:** $60


VALERIE MANSOUR/FOR METRO HALIFAX
Salmon and Rice Croquettes ($14)

Rockbottom Brewery has an excellent brew selection and a fun atmosphere, but its menu comes third.

Although our server recommends the Provencal Mussels we're in the mood for the Spicy Sausage Dip ($10) appetizer.

It's rich and has nice zip but is served with overly-toasted whole grain pita wedges. The Caesar Salad (small $5) is fresh but the dressing needs more garlic.

Salmon and Rice Croquettes ($14) are made with carrots, onions and mushroom cream sauce. They are satisfying but a bit bland. The accompanying roasted potatoes are dry and only edible drowned in catsup.

Kung Pao Chicken ($15) should be run out of town. The Asian noodles are undercooked — quite a feat considering they only take a few minutes.

They are stuck together and inedible despite the veggies, peanuts and chunks of chicken. We return it and order the Seafood Chowder ($8) which has tasty tiny scallops and shrimp but an overly thickened cream sauce.


Kung Pao Chicken ($15)

The generous serving of Warm Gingerbread ($6) is delicious. That and our totally delightful server are saving graces for this ho-hum meal.

### On the web

- Get recipes and more great food content at metronews.ca/recipes

## Dining out

**'60S STYLE**
Bish World Cuisine, 1475 Lower Water St. celebrates classic cocktails, a "Rat Pack of entertainers with vintage Mad Men style." Call 425-7993 for information.

**CELEBRATING YEAR'S END**
The Bitter End, 1572 Argyle St., is celebrating New Year's Eve with a four-course meal and champagne. $60 each (two drinks included) and a shuttle service home.

## Global Peasant blog online

- Travel along with Diane Thompson's culinary adventures in her Global Peasant blog.
- Check out metronews.ca/globalpeasant for a recipe of Stir Fried Rice-O-Rama.



## In brief

**CRUISE** Holland America Cruise Lines has teamed with Chives' Chef Craig Flinn to host a seven-day Mediterranean cruise Aug. 12 through 19. For information call Absolute Travel at 455-0034 or e-mail info@absolutetravel-specialists.com

**GIFTS** Taste of Nova Scotia is offering unique gourmet gift baskets featuring delicious food and beverages from throughout Nova Scotia. Baskets come in a range of sizes and prices. Call 492-9291 or visit tasteofnovascotia.com

Party Packs for the Holidays
Move over devilled eggs. We're bringing a whole new flavor to your party!
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IN THEATRES JANUARY 8
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No purchase necessary. Enter daily for more chances to win. Contest open to Canadian residents of legal age, excluding residents of Quebec. Contest closes December 19, 2009 at 11:59pm. Odds of winning depend on number of entries received. For full contest rules and details, visit www.metronews.ca.
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**Breaking news: Rich celebrities spend loads of money on expensive Christmas gifts**

Keith Urban was spotted picking holiday gifts for his wife Nicole Kidman at London's Harvey Nichols department store. He spent time at the By Kilian counter, selecting four perfumes, including the Absinthe Verte, people.com reports. METRO NEWS SERVICES

# Celebrity Buzz

## Celebrity tweets

Richard Branson is attacking the issues, Lindsay Lohan doesn't like running into her past, the lights are on outside but not on the inside at Jessica Simpson's house, and teenage singer Justin Bieber will not be tied down.

• @richardbranson Good meetings in Copenhagen with mayors of LA, Calgary and Vancouver. Forest talks now. Lots of opportunities for Carbon War Room.

• @lindsaylohan go away ex

• @JessicaSimpson I have so many christmas lights outside that now my inside lights won't stay on! Ha!! Electricians are in and out of my house today.

• @justinbieber the reporter asked me is i was dating. i said i go out on dates. but nothing serious. im still single and ready to mingle. haha. METRO WORLD NEWS



# Madge lends Guy kids for holidays

**THE GRINCH WHO RETURNED CHRISTMAS** Guy Ritchie is overjoyed to be spending Christmas Day with his children, femalefirst.co.uk reports.

The Sherlock Holmes director — who has nine-year-old son Rocco and adopted Malawian son David Banda with singer Madonna — is going all out to make the day "traditional" and special for the youngsters after his ex-wife gave permission for them to spend the day at his home.

A source said: "Guy is really pleased, and cannot quite believe he and Madonna came to such an amicable arrangement. He is a huge fan of Christmas and wants to do everything by the book, very traditionally."

The British filmmaker is so determined to make the day memorable, he has promised to rustle up a delicious roast turkey lunch with all the trimmings and "spoil them rotten."

The source explained to the Daily Mirror newspaper: "This means stockings hanging from under the kids' beds, presents under the tree and a massive turkey, Brussels sprouts, chestnuts, the works.

"When Guy and Madonna were together they didn't really celebrate Christmas Day due to Madonna's staunch Kabbalah beliefs. Now that he's a single man, Guy is determined to spoil them rotten and give the youngsters a Christmas they'll never forget." METRO WORLD NEWS



# Was Kate's behaviour behind A-Rod breakup?

**DIAMOND DIVA** Kate Hudson's desire for exposure was behind her split from Alex Rodriguez, at least according to one of his friends. "She would always want to be styled before games and she'd insist on front-row seats," the source tells Us Weekly.

"It was a turnoff to have a girlfriend who always wanted to be on camera. Alex wanted someone who was more interested in building a long-term relationship than just building their profile." METRO WORLD NEWS



# Courtney's custody saga continues

**MONEY CAN'T BUY YOU LOVE** Courtney Love's lawyer says the singer losing custody of her daughter, Frances Bean Cobain, has nothing to do with drugs, insisting Love has "been clean for years," according to Newser.

"Frances is 17 and a strong-willed child, and this is a decision she made on her own." Meanwhile, Love took to her Facebook page to slam her daughter in a series of posts that have since been deleted, according to Perez Hilton, writing that her daughter "was deceptive" and "thinks she has all this money. The point is I have all the money she has."

Love insists Hilton made up the post in question. METRO WORLD NEWS



## Lohan gets a legal scolding from LA judge

**HE HAS THE LOHANS ON SPEED DIAL** A judge in Los Angeles is laying down the law with Lindsay Lohan, insisting the troubled actress complete her court-ordered alcohol education classes before the three-year probation from her 2007 DUI conviction expires next July, according to Hollyscoop. Lohan was accused of violating the terms of her probation by only attending 15 of 26 alcohol classes and 13 of 28 self-help sessions. METRO WORLD NEWS



## Kidman shuts down reporter's Scientology probe

**HER CONTRACT'S NOT UP YET** In an interview with BBC personality Andrew Marr, Nicole Kidman refused to talk about Scientology when asked about the controversial religion.

"One of the thing, you haven't talked about before ... Scientology, it is, a lot of people would say, a bullying cult," Marr said to Kidman.

"I'm here to publicize Nine," Kidman responded. METRO WORLD NEWS



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# Paula's Idol regrets

**STRAIGHT DOWN** To everyone who asked, "Why in the world would Paula Abdul quit American Idol?" a few months ago, it seems that Abdul herself is now pondering the same question. Word is, she's bummed out and her replacement, Ellen DeGeneres, is absolutely the talk of the Idol set, popeater.com reports.

DeGeneres is telling friends that she can't wait for the new season of American Idol to begin in January. "She is a breath of fresh air that is so easy to work with," a friend says. "Everyone in front of the cameras and behind all adore her, particularly 'Mr. Mean,' Simon Cowell, who Ellen has already challanged to a dance-off!"

Meanwhile, as life couldn't be better for DeGeneres, Abdul finally realizes what a mistake it was to quit the show, popeater.com says. METRO WORLD NEWS

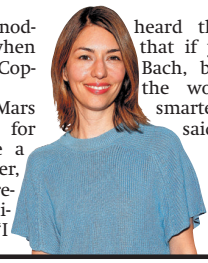


# Pregnant Coppola plays Bach for baby

**MY PARENTS PLAYED CYNDI LAUPER AND NOW I WRITE CELEBRITY BUZZ** Director Sofia Coppola and partner Thomas Mars, the frontman for the band Phoenix, are expecting their second child, people.com has confirmed.

In a backstage interview with Chicago's WXRT, the French-born musician, seemingly surprised, nodded affirmatively when asked about partner Coppola being pregnant

Coppola, 38, and Mars have been together for four years, and have a three-year-old daughter, Romy. Coppola was previously married to director Spike Jonze. "I heard the story that if you play Bach, babies in the womb get smarter," Mars said. METRO WORLD NEWS

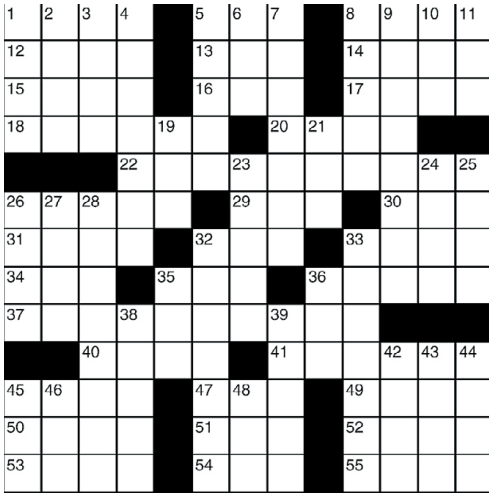


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# Take Five



**ACROSS**

1 Cold War weapon, for short
5 Rotating part
8 Undermines
12 Garment of India
13 — Khan
14 Hodgepodge
15 Lendl or Pavlov
16 Rocky peak
17 Island guitars
18 Recipient
20 McGwire rival
22 "Going Rogue" memoirist
26 "Spirit of '76" musician
29 Snitch
30 "— not choose to run"
31 Lummox
32 "You've got mail" co.
33 Dandling site
34 Pac. counterpart
35 Mrs. McKinley
36 "He's — nowhere man"
37 Any of three of this puzzle's answers
40 Jab
41 Top
45 Sketch
47 Singer Cole
49 Waikiki wingding
50 Meditative exercises
51 Accom-plished
52 "— It Roman-tic?"
53 Paradise
54 Commotion
55 "Untouchables" role

**DOWN**

1 Wife of Osiris
2 Grotto
3 Cereal choice
4 Mental attitude
5 Bring the food
6 In bygone times
7 Sheriff
8 March King
9 High-pH
10 Dessert choice
11 "Help!"
19 Listener
21 Make up your mind
23 Bellowing
24 Concept
25 Yule refrain
26 Envelope part
27 Greek vowel
28 Maximal, as a magazine ad
32 Book supplement
33 Russian citadel
35 Tattooist's supply
36 Rock concert need
38 Hawkeye
39 Surpass
42 English river
43 Without
44 Sounds of disapproval
45 Turn blue?
46 Scepter
48 Answer 11-Down

## Sudoku

For more/less challenging Sudoku puzzles, visit metronews.ca

**HOW TO PLAY:** Digits 1 through 9 will appear once in each zone – one zone is an outlined 3x3 grid within the larger puzzle grid. There are nine zones in the puzzle. Do not enter a digit into a box if it already appears elsewhere in the same zone, row across or column down the entire puzzle.

| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | 5 | | 6 | | 7 | | 2 | |
| 2 | | | | | | | | 6 |
| | | 4 | 9 | | 2 | 7 | | |
| | 4 | | 5 | 7 | 9 | | 8 | |
| | 9 | | | | | | 1 | |
| | 6 | | 4 | 8 | 1 | | 7 | |
| | | 1 | 7 | | 6 | 9 | | |
| 8 | | | | | | | | 3 |
| | 2 | | 3 | | 8 | | 4 | |

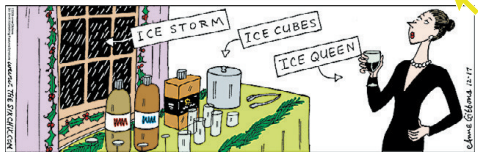
**PREVIOUS DAY'S CROSSWORD AND SUDOKU ANSWERS:**



| | | | | | | | | |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 4 | 5 | 9 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 2 |
| 3 | 7 | 9 | 1 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 6 | 8 |
| 2 | 6 | 8 | 3 | 7 | 4 | 1 | 9 | 5 |
| 7 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 4 | 3 | 6 | 8 | 1 |
| 5 | 8 | 4 | 6 | 1 | 2 | 7 | 3 | 9 |
| 6 | 3 | 1 | 8 | 9 | 7 | 5 | 2 | 4 |
| 9 | 2 | 6 | 7 | 5 | 1 | 8 | 4 | 3 |
| 4 | 5 | 3 | 2 | 8 | 6 | 9 | 1 | 7 |
| 8 | 1 | 7 | 4 | 3 | 9 | 2 | 5 | 6 |

## On the web

For more games and 60 additional daily cartoon strips, visit metronews.ca




## Metro Recipe of the Day



### Leek & Mushroom Strudel

Submitted by:
Nicole Paara, Toronto, ON

**INGREDIENTS:**

2 Tablespoon butter
3 Cup chopped leeks (1 bunch)
500 Gram mixed mushrooms, trimmed and sliced
2 Teaspoon chopped garlic
1/4 Cup whipping cream
1/4 Cup fresh breadcrumbs
Salt and freshly ground pepper
1/2 Cup grated manchego or parmesan cheese
1 Package puff pastry, defrosted
8 Ounce goat cheese, crumbled
1 egg yolk
2 Tablespoon whipping cream

**METHOD:**

1. Preheat oven to 400 F°.
2. Melt butter in a large skillet over medium heat. Add leeks and sauté for 2 minutes or until beginning to soften.
3. Add mushrooms and garlic and sauté for 4 minutes longer, or until mushrooms are soft.
4. Add cream and cook for 30 seconds or until cream just coats vegetables.
5. Stir in breadcrumbs and grated cheese. Season with salt and pepper.
6. Divide pastry in half and roll out each piece to a 10 x 10-inch square and place on a parchment-lined baking sheet.
7. Cover half of each square with goat cheese, leaving a 1-inch border around the edges. Top with vegetable mixture.
8. Beat together egg yolk and whipping cream for glaze and brush over pastry edges. Fold pastry over vegetables to cover. Press edges together to seal and brush top with glaze. Slash top of pastry at 2 inch intervals leaving a 2-inch border on each side.
9. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until pastry is golden and filling is hot.

**SERVES 6-8**
**PREP TIME: 20 MINUTES**
**COOK TIME: 15 MINUTES**

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## Horoscopes by Sally Brompton sallybrompton.com

For Sally's expanded daily and weekend horoscopes, visit metronews.ca

**ARIES**
MARCH 21-APRIL 20
A wonderful link from Venus to your ruler Mars urges you to put fun and pleasure before chores and responsibilities.

**TAURUS**
APRIL 21-MAY 21
Forget about cash flow issues and focus on something that brings a smile to your face. It's time to get your life back in perspective

**GEMINI**
MAY 22-JUNE 21
You need to be on the move as much as possible today because the more people you meet the more opportunities will come your way

**CANCER**
JUNE 22-JULY 22
Others may say you are behaving in an illogical manner but don't let that change the way you go about things today.

**LEO**
JULY 23-AUG 23
With Mars in your sign aligned with Venus, planet of harmony, you won't have to do anything too energetic today.

**VIRGO**
AUG 24-SEPT 22
If you admit you need help today you will be overwhelmed by offers of assistance.

**LIBRA**
SEPT 23-OCT 23
Friendship and love are especially well starred at the moment and a new relationship is likely to begin either today or tomorrow.

**SCORPIO**
OCT 24-NOV 22
Go out of your way to be nice to people today, even people who have not always been nice to you in the past.

**SAGITTARIUS**
NOV 23-DEC 21
Your adventurous spirit will find its perfect outlet today and, even better, you will share the fun with like-minded people.

**CAPRICORN**
DEC 22-JAN 20
The intensity of your emotions will catch you by surprise today — so imagine how other people will feel!

**AQUARIUS**
JAN 21-FEB 18
You will find it easier than usual to admit that you were at least partly to blame for things that have gone wrong,

**PISCES**
FEB 19-MARCH 20
You may find it hard to make up your mind about something today but maybe that's not such a bad thing.

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GL Sport model shown

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